

ican producer to obtain labor relief in the form of imported supplemental workers, it is apparent that every wage earner whose employment is wholly or partially dependent upon our agricultural output is being adversely affected.

It is the sentiment of the Florida grower that as a citizen of the United States he should be entitled to full priority when it comes to domestic marketing opportunities and that he and his employees should not be subjected to the adverse effects of foreign competition when their own productivity is adequate to meet the needs of the American people. The transfer of increasing numbers of farm operations and food processing operations to nearby foreign countries is evidence that we do not have an economic climate conducive to the continued expansion of our agricultural industry even though the population growth alone warrants and, in fact, will demand an increased production of food-stuffs in the immediate years ahead.

EXPORT-IMPORT STATISTICS

We have chosen not to fill the record with a lot of bulky testimony concerning the need for a change in our methods of compiling Export and Import statistics. It is a well-known fact that our balance of payments figures are very misleading, since our foreign aid and other give-away programs are considered to be exports. This subject was quite adequately covered by Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association briefs and witnesses' testimony presented to the Trade Information Committee at its hearing on the Future of U.S. Foreign Trade Policy, April 23, 1968, in Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION OF TRADE POLICY

Thee Congress of the United States should resume greater responsibility in the administration of our trade policy. In reviewing the tariff cuts under the Kennedy Round of negotiations and seeing the small protection, if any, that remains for many commodities, it is imperative that American businessmen be given an opportunity to present factual information to their representatives in Congress if and when further reductions are proposed.

Giving the authority to the President who, in turn, appoints a special Committee to receive and evaluate evidence too often prevents a complete unbiased evaluation of the facts. Politics become involved and it is most difficult for the businessman to present his story to neutral parties. By working with and through his Congressman, he usually is assured that his problems will be heard and evaluated on a fair and equal basis.

SUMMARY

Realizing that the world trade picture is currently in a state of flux, and that changes and adjustments in marketing circumstances undoubtedly will occur in future years, the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association would like to go on record as firmly opposing any action that would encourage more foreign agricultural products being imported into the United States from low-wage countries without adequate protection.

Such a move at the present time would be at the direct expense of agricultural interests in Florida and the United States, and any temporary economies which might possibly be realized by the consumer would be more than offset by increased costs of another nature, including the displacement of persons now employed in the agri-business complex.

What is needed is a national policy that is comprehensive in its scope and fully coherent—one that does not work against the interests of the American employee or his employer. Adjustments of national policies must be made, both with respect to the importation of foreign goods and with respect to our need to expand our agricultural labor force by one means or another.

Our Nation's greatest asset is her agricultural productive capacity. As an