

This legislation will enable us to achieve orderly importation of fruits and vegetables without being unduly restrictive upon our competitors. It will also serve notice to those countries that the United States cannot become a dumping ground for fruits and vegetables produced with cheap labor.

The entire agri-business community is concerned about this adverse situation created by unrestricted imports of fruits and vegetables and I am including as appendix E a memorandum from the Florida Bankers Association as an example of such concern.

Texas Citrus Mutual has filed a statement with this committee, outlining the situation with respect to the effect of citrus imports from Mexico on their industry. Additionally, they have requested me to tell this committee that they support H.R. 16416 and urge its enactment into law. I am including their request as appendix F of my statement.

I appreciate the privilege you have extended in permitting me to appear at this hearing and we sincerely plead for your support toward the enactment of necessary legislation to relieve this deplorable situation which adversely affects U.S. consumers, laborers, and growers—legislation which will fix a definite policy is the only way to prevent the ultimate destruction of many segments of the fruit and vegetable industry.

Thank you very much.

(The appendixes referred to follow:)

APPENDIX A

FLORIDA FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION,
Orlando, Fla., March 29, 1966.

HON. ROBERT L. F. SIKES, HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT, HON. CLAUDE D. PEPPER,
HON. DANTE B. FASCELL, HON. A. SYDNEY HERLONG, Jr., HON. PAUL G. ROGERS,
HON. JAMES A. HALEY, HON. D. R. "BILLY" MATTHEWS, HON. DON FUQUA,
HON. SAM GIBBONS, HON. EDWARD J. GURNEY, HON. WILLIAM C. CRAMER.

GENTLEMEN: The attached copy of letter to Mr. Krauthoff is self-explanatory.

It should serve to point out to you the duality of the problem engendered by proposed amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act and the lack of protection extended to the producers and workers in those agricultural commodities which are highly vulnerable to foreign competition from low-wage countries.

Certainly our agricultural producers have no objection to anyone working in this industry making a decent living but when they are confronted with the problems engendered by such divergent policies as outlined in my letter to Mr. Krauthoff, they frankly are at a loss as to how to reconcile such thinking and actions on the part of our Government.

It would seem only proper and fair that when H.R. 13712 comes up for consideration on the floor of the House, you should raise—among others—the following questions:

1. What is being done, if anything, to afford our domestic producers and American workers the necessary protection to permit them to enjoy the benefits which are being proposed in this piece of legislation?

2. To what extent has the Secretary of Labor—who has already demonstrated militant protectionist attitude towards American workers—done to carry out his responsibilities under the provisions of Section 4(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which require him to make a thorough and complete investigation of the impact, or possible impact, of foreign competition before any proposed amendments to this Act are considered?

3. What is the attitude of the Secretary of Agriculture in this administration with respect to the increase in foreign competition and expatriation of many of our agricultural industries with regard to its effect on the national economy as well as our national security?