

4. Will the State Department and the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations agree to the delisting from tariff negotiations of those commodities which are highly vulnerable to the foreign competition for the reasons hereinabove named?

5. Failing to have the necessary understanding and/or cooperation from these administrative agencies, what would you, as a Member of Congress, propose to do about this problem?

I am sure that your constituents who are so affected would like to have the answers to the above questions because we certainly at a loss to give them those answers.

Sincerely yours,

JOFFRE C. DAVID,
Secretary-Treasurer.

FLORIDA FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION,
March 29, 1966.

Mr. LOUIS C. KRAUTHOFF II,
Chairman, Trade Information Committee, Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. KRAUTHOFF: As a member of the Roster of Technical Specialists, I have been the recipient of many complaints and expressed concern from producers of agricultural commodities who are highly vulnerable to foreign competition from low-wage countries. This concern has been heightened recently by repeated announcement that the Kennedy Rounds of tariff negotiations' goals are a 50% across-the-board cut in all tariffs with a bare minimum of exceptions.

The problem which these people are voicing has been greatly aggravated by two developments which have taken place since 1965. One of them was, for all practical purposes, the virtual embargo on the importation of supplemental foreign agricultural workers imposed by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz and the other has been the proposals now contained in H.R. 13712, amending the Fair Labor Standards Act to extend the many benefits of that law to heretofore exempt workers in agriculture.

While the former action was designed to preclude any adverse effect from the competition of foreign workers in this country to our domestic workers and the latter is to provide the domestic workers with a greater measure of wage benefits, little thought has been given to shutting the back door, so to speak, to the influx of foreign agricultural commodities, which will not only adversely affect our domestic producers but our American workers in these industries as well.

Our people find it difficult to reconcile the above actions of Mr. Wirtz and the proposed legislation with the Kennedy Round of tariff reduction. The least that could be done for our domestic industry and its employees under the circumstances would be to request that these agricultural commodities which are highly vulnerable to foreign competition from extremely low-wage countries, as hereinabove stated, should be taken off the list for negotiation at Geneva.

I have discussed this with Senator Spessard L. Holland while in Washington some weeks ago and he, as well as other Members of our Congressional Delegation, are deeply concerned over these developments.

I feel it only just and proper that you should be so advised and that it has already been indicated to me you may very well expect serious repercussions unless this problem is properly resolved by the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

Sincerely yours,

JOFFRE C. DAVID,
Secretary-Treasurer.