We have also found out through experience that the Section 22 provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act do not lend themselves to any relief for the problems encountered by the fast-moving perishable commodities when gluts and market disruptions are caused by excessive imports from foreign countries.

This Association was instrumental in the passage of the amendments to the Agricultural Marketing Act which requires foreign imports to meet the same standards when imposed on certain commodities operating under a federal marketing agreement and order program; we have found this to be some measure of help in holding up the quality standards in the marketplace, but what we need now is some means of volume control or market sharing program with foreign imports in order to maintain orderly marketing and satisfactory returns to our domestic producers.

We shall greatly appreciate your giving this problem serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

JOFFRE C. DAVID,
Secretary-Treasurer.

APPENDIX D

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, D.C., August 31, 1967.

Hon. ORVILLE L. FREEMAN,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: In my letter of June 19, 1967, I pointed out the critical and precarious situation facing Florida producers of fresh fruits and vegetables because of the increasing volume of imports of these commodities from Mexico and other low wage producing areas.

A reply dated July 13, 1967, signed by Mr. Rodney Leonard, indicates that the Department shares my concern and states that after reviewing the Department's position a more complete reply would be forthcoming.

I again wish to stress the importance and urgency of this matter. One merely needs to look at the import statistics for the past ten years to see what is happening. Imports of tomatoes from Mexico in 1965 totaled 66 million pounds. In 1966 such imports had increased to 358 million pounds, an increase of more than 500 percent, and are continuing to increase at a rapid rate. For your convenience I am attaching a table showing imports from Mexico of tomatoes and other vegetables for the period 1955–1966.

The injury to domestic growers caused by the increasing import volume is further aggravated by the timing of such imports which distort and weaken domestic prices just at the time when Florida's domestic production is to be marketed. These uncontrolled imports also make the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act ineffective and of little value since efforts by domestic growers to balance supplies and marketings with demand would be thwarted by imports.

The 1967–1968 acreage marketing guide for Florida vegetables issued by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of Florida, after pointing up the fact that over-abundant supplies depress markets and that growers should keep production in line with market demand, makes the following significant statement which clearly illustrates the plight of the Florida vegetable grower:

"A major factor affecting the volume of imports from Mexico is the prevailing price level in the United States. If production and marketing costs in the United States continue to increase relative to cost levels in Mexico, there will be corresponding increases in imports. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and possibly peppers are likely to continue their sharp upward trend. Mexico's shift to vine-ripened tomatoes, precooling, and improved shipping facilities may have added to its advantage over the United States tomato industry. United States imports of winter vegetables from Mexico are likely to continue the upward trend in the years ahead."

There is no question but that costs of the American farmer will continue to rise and that the disparity between Mexican and United States labor and other costs will serve as additional incentive for imports to increase at an even faster pace. The problem has grown more serious each year. It has now reached critical