proportions and it is imperative that effective corrective action be taken without delay.

In my letter of June 19 I suggested the possibility of some form of a "market sharing" plan which would establish an equitable share of the domestic market for imports based on a representative import base period with an appropriate adjustment for market growth. This would have the effect of stabilizing imports in relation to domestic consumption and to the growth of the domestic market.

I would appreciate your reactions to this suggestion. I would also like to be advised of the existing authority available to cope with this import problem and whether you believe it is adequate. If it is not adequate, I would like your suggestions as to the additional authority needed to the end that the flow of imports may be related to an equitable sharing of the market and so that orderly marketing procedures may be established.

An early reply will be appreciated as we simply cannot permit present conditions to continue.

Yours faithfully.

SPESSARD L. HOLLAND.

APPENDIX E

FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION, ORLANDO, FLA., APRIL 17, 1968

MEMORANDUM TO ALL FLORIDA BANKERS

A bill has been introduced into the Congress by Representatives Syd Herlong, and Paul Rogers in the House, and Senator Spessard Holland in the Senate, entitled, "The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market Sharing Act of 1968". As an organization vitally interested in all matters concerning the agricultural economy of the state, bankers should support this legislation and make known that support to their respective Senators and Representatives in the Congress.

Essentially, this proposed legislation states that access to the United States market for foreign produced fresh fruits and vegetables should be established on an equitable and orderly market sharing basis, consistent with the maintenance of a strong and expanding U.S. production designed to avoid the disruption of the domestic market, and unemployment of domestic workers.

Since 1956 fruits and vegetables imported have increased to the extent where they have seriously disrupted the market for these commodities in the United States, and while the Agricultural Act of 1956 gives authorization to agreements with other countries to limit exports, such authority has never been exercised in connection with fruits and vegetables.

The increase since 1956 has been caused mainly by lower costs of production in other countries, particularly low wage rates, and because of this latter factor, it seems certain that imports of fresh fruits and vegetables will continue to increase and further disrupt the market for these commodities in this country.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Sharing Act of 1968 would authorize the President to negotiate with other governments to limit imports each year to not more than the share of the United States consumption of such commodities supplied by imports thereof during a representative period of not less than the average of any two consecutive import years prior to 1967. If no agreement could be reached, the Act would limit the import based upon the average of the five calendar years, 1962–66, with a monthly limitation to provide more orderly marketing.

This bill is important to the economy of the State of Florida, and therefore, to Florida banking. We urge you to write your Senator and your Representative as soon as possible, asking him not only to support, but also to actively seek passage of this important legislation.

RICHARD E. EHLIS,
President, Florida Bankers Association, Orlando,
L. S. TILLER,
Chairman, Agriculture Division, EVP Indian River Citrus Bank, Vero Beach,
HOWARD MCNULTY,
Chairman, Farm Committee, President, Florida State Bank, Sanford.