carloads of citrus fruit. The impact of imported fruit on our labor force is more substantial than many realize. The approximately 3000 carloads of Mexican citrus that have entered the States this season, was packed in Mexico, depriving from gainful employment a work force in numbers approaching the number employed by three of our highest capacity packing houses.

Last season (1966–67), which incidentally was a disastrous one for orange growers in the United States due to the tremendous crop, the Texas growers received 29% of parity for their orange crop and the Florida growers received 25% (USDA C&MS–F&V Citrus Fruits: Estimated equivalent on-tree returns and parity prices 10/2/67). As a result of our much smaller crop than Florida's—and the fact it can be sold much closer to our producing area with savings in freight—we should always receive a higher percentage of parity than the Florida area.

However, this season to date Mexico crossed 2261 carloads of oranges compared with 255 cars last season. Except for the 124 cars that crossed at Nogales all the fruit has crossed the border here in Texas and sold in our traditional marketing area. Consequently the Texas growers received only 49% of parity to date for their orange crop while Florida growers have received 66% of parity (USDA C&MS–F&V Citrus Fruits: Estimated equivalent on-tree returns and parity prices 3/29/68).

Last season Texas had an orange crop of 2.8 million boxes and marketed fresh 2986 cars (Texas Valley Citrus Committee)—500 boxes per car—and Mexico imported through the Valley 256 cars for a combined total of 3242 cars of oranges shipped from the Valley into our marketing area. 'Beulah' reduced our orange crop this season to only 1.9 million boxes yet there has been shipped from the Valley this season to date, 4580 cars of oranges (2319 cars Texas and 2261 cars Mexican oranges)—some 40% more than the total shipments last season. Were it not for the December freeze in California which reduced their crop—and the much shorter crop in Florida this season—the percent of parity received by Texas growers would have been much lower.

H.R. 16416 is a means of providing orderly marketing of foreign citrus. It would prevent dumping of foreign surplus during peak production years and assure adequate supplies for the American consumer during periods of domestic shortages.

Sincerely,

JAY D. BOGUE,
Executive Vice President and General Manager.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you, Mr. Peters. There is one question that came to my mind when you were testifying. You testified mostly about the imports from Mexico coming into the United States and destroying American markets.

Do you have any figures on how much of that production is brought about by U.S. growers going down there and farming, using the cheap labor, and sending their products into the United States? Do you have any figures on that?

Mr. PETERS. We don't have those actual figures because American capital going down there has to tie itself in with Mexican corporations. We do have knowledge that such capital has gone down there in years gone by.

We are aware, however, that Mexican growers are becoming increasingly prosperous and divorcing themselves from this source of production money to a certain extent.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS. I would just like to ask one general question for the record.