

Mr. HERLONG. Mr. Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS. Has the domestic market for your products, fruits and vegetables, been increasing during, say, the past 10 years? Do you have the figures on that?

Mr. PETERS. We have the figures.

Mr. CURTIS. Could you supply them for the record? I would like to get those figures in relation to what imports are. What I am really interested in is to see whether your problem is that you aren't getting as big a percentage of a growing market as you were or whether you are actually experiencing a decline.

It could be either way. I am not, by this question, saying you don't have a problem, you do, but it could be a different kind of problem. Could you get those overall figures for the record?

Mr. PETERS. Yes, sir; but may I suggest that perhaps the volume figures would probably be more meaningful than the price figures.

Mr. CURTIS. I think so, too.

Mr. PETERS. And you will find those as a supplement in Senator Holland's letter, attachment to Senator Holland's letter. Additionally, we will be happy to provide further import figures which will tell you that, while the Florida production has remained rather static on tomatoes for the past several years, the Mexican imports have continuously increased, especially during the last quarter and the second quarter of each year.

Mr. CURTIS. Thank you.

(The following letter was received by the committee:)

FLORIDA FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION,
Orlando, Fla., July 29, 1968.

HON. THOMAS B. CURTIS,
Member, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CURTIS: When I appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means on July 2, 1968 to testify concerning the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations, you inquired as to whether the domestic market for fruits and vegetables had been increasing during the past ten years and requested that I provide the Committee with figures that would reveal whether Florida producers were getting as big a percentage of a growing market or were actually experiencing a decline.

I am supplying the Committee on Ways and Means a tabulation compiled from official sources that supplies this information as it applies to a number of Florida's major agricultural crops, a copy of which is enclosed for your reference and I am sure that you recognize the parallel producing seasons of Mexico and Florida.

Thanking you for the interest you have shown in the problems of the agricultural industry and trusting that you will call upon us for any additional information you may require,

Yours very truly,

J. S. PETERS,
Manager, Membership and Industry Relations.