

in further developing our domestic market, through advertising, promotion, and research. We soon expect in Florida the productive capacity of our orange industry to be well over 200 million boxes as compared to 104 million boxes this season, 144 million boxes last season, so you can see by this that our productive capacity is there and that our productive estimates for the future are going to go very quickly now into figures that are going to be very hard to handle for the Florida citrus industry.

In the past years we have worked with the Department of Agriculture in what they call the three-party plan and have invested considerable sums of money in the development of some of these European markets and at the present time we hope to be able to export 3 to 4 percent of our crop and hopefully, if this market development program continues, to increase 10 to 15 percent.

Before the Trade Information Committee at hearings in 1963 we testified very strongly, much along the same basis that we are today, that the tariff on foreign citrus coming into the United States must be maintained, and Mr. Herlong has mentioned here this morning that we were told in no uncertain terms that the tariff structure for Florida citrus or citrus in general throughout the United States was not changed in any shape or form.

However, I have since learned that the statement that Mr. Carl made from Texas Citrus Mutual probably is in reference to kumquats only and I certainly hope it is, but that will be checked into and we will furnish the committee with some authoritative information on this as quickly as possible.

(The material referred to was not received by the committee by the time the hearing went to press.)

Mr. RUTLEDGE. We get to Mexico. In Mexico they have a very rapidly expanding citrus industry. Just a few years ago they produced 12 million boxes of citrus. Now they are producing 34 million boxes of citrus, and they have the capacity there to go right on up to 80 or 90 million boxes of citrus.

I think there is a very significant figure here of what can happen because it is happening to the U.S. citrus industry. It affects California, affects Florida. Last year Mexico brought into the United States 258 cars of oranges. This season they will bring in 2,323 carloads of oranges and 422 carloads of tangerines, so we have a very significant problem here inasmuch as with their plantings the pressure for them to export more and more of their production is going to be beyond them and they will be seeking again this largest citrus consuming market that we, the Florida citrus industry, along with California, have developed over a long period of years.

Mexico has all kinds of regulations about taking citrus into Mexico. I don't think we would want to, but we inquired about it. We might want to sell some concentrate in Mexico City but they have certainly got that tied up to an extent where it takes all kinds of permits and regulations to comply with and it is practically impossible to get anything in there.