

When you get into citrus fruit it is not quite as bad in these European countries.

Mr. CONABLE. Are you familiar with the sugar-added duties that the French have imposed in addition to the regular duty on products?

Mr. BURROWS. Not as familiar as I should be. There is a person in the audience who is I am sure, Mr. Lobreck of the National Cannery.

Mr. CONABLE. I think it was he who described it to us. I am inclined to agree with you, sir, that these nontariff barriers are the real villain at this point in our economic history.

Mr. BURROWS. How can we get them reduced or eliminated?

Mr. CONABLE. You can't get them reduced or eliminated without some very strong advocacy on the part of our own people.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your contribution.

Mr. BURROWS. Thank you.

Mr. HERLONG. The next witness is Mr. Louis F. Rauth. I want to welcome you to the committee. We are happy to have you here, sir. You are a citizen of the great State of Florida and if you will identify yourself for the record and proceed in your own way we will be delighted to hear you.

STATEMENT OF LOUIS F. RAUTH, FLAVOR PICT COOPERATIVE

Mr. RAUTH. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be here. My name is Louis F. Rauth. I am a farmer, a tomato grower in Palm Beach County, Fla. I am representing myself, Flavor Pict Cooperative and 130 other Florida tomato growers. The total employees of these 130 tomato growers are around 27,000.

The Honorable Congressman Herlong has this to say in section 2 of the bill, H.R. 16416, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Market-Sharing Act of 1968.

The Congress finds that the authority of the President under the Agricultural Act of 1956 to seek to obtain agreements with other countries limiting the export from such countries and the importation into the United States of agricultural commodities has not been exercised with respect to fresh fruits and vegetables.

I want to emphasize this: That here the President has the authority to do this and he has failed to do it.

During the intervening years imports of certain fresh fruits and vegetables into the United States have increased to such extent as to disrupt the market for such commodities produced in the United States. This increase in imports has been caused in large part by lower costs of production in other countries, especially in the wages paid to agricultural employees, which it is the policy of the United States to maintain at relatively much higher levels than in other countries. Because of this unfair disparity in costs of production which exists in other countries by reason of the payment of substandard wages, it is practically certain that imports of fresh fruits and vegetables will continue to increase and further destroy the market for such commodities produced in the United States.

Tomatoes from Mexico have poured into the United States for the last 6-to-7 years to a point where they have destroyed the American market, and yet the President, who was given the power and designated by the Congress as the person to act, failed to do so. The President has too many things under his control. This gives him too much power