

and centralizes the power, forming a bureaucratic or dictator form of government. If the people wish to have control of their Government, then the Congress must keep its power and not give it to the President.

I have read and studied the new recommended administration trade bill (H.R. 17551). Farming is unique and different from other businesses. The criteria of eligibility for adjustment assistance, explained in the proposed administration trade bill, may well serve its purpose in industry but to farming it has no value. Adjustment assistance must be given in a different form to agriculture. All vegetable crops are produced in abundance in Florida and for the tomato growers to grow other vegetable crops would only throw the whole vegetable growing industry into a turmoil. In fact, many of the other vegetable growers are also getting in a chaotic condition by the ever-increasing imports from Mexico.

There is an adjustment assistance, a new criteria, not mentioned in the administration trade bill that would serve the tomato industry of Florida well. It is very simple; it would be economically sound; it would protect the Florida tomato grower from being completely eliminated.

I have been to Mexico during the tomato growing season. I have ascertained the cost of growing, harvesting, and trucking Mexican tomatoes to the U.S. border at Nogales, paying the U.S. duty, and find that the total of all these charges is 2 cents per pound less than the cost of growing and harvesting tomatoes in Florida.

To determine if Florida tomato growers would qualify for adjustment assistance I would propose the new criteria in the administration trade bill. If they qualified, then, the total tariff collected on all imports of tomatoes week by week would be distributed among the U.S. producers, based upon the amount of U.S. No. 1 grade tomatoes each grower shipped during that week.

This is a very flexible plan, insuring the consumer of excellent quality, cheap tomatoes and keeping the incentive for the Mexican grower, as well as the American grower, to produce the best quality product at the lowest price.

This would have a tendency to stabilize the production in Mexico and also to stabilize the production in Florida.

It would have a tendency to put on the brakes and to slow the downward movement of the great Mexican avalanche which is destined to crush the tomato growers in Florida.

Gentlemen, it is high time that something is done for the Florida tomato grower. I point out that the President had the power to act but did nothing. The proposed new administration bill is empty and has nothing to offer the tomato industry.

I hope the Ways and Means Committee will take the bull by the horns and do something specific for the fruit and vegetable growers of America. The fruit and vegetable growers of America, with only a few exceptions, stood on their own feet during all the past years when other segments of agriculture received billions of dollars and are still receiving a handout. Yes, the vegetable grower carried his own load and even more, when the corn and wheat farmers were paid not to grow corn or wheat, yet they could convert to growing all the vegetables they wished to grow.