Don't make the mistake again by neglecting the fluent segment of agriculture. There are only two plans that will save the Florida tomato industry: the one I mentioned by adding the distribution of the tariff revenue among the producers to the administration trade bill, or adopting the House bill H.R. 16416.

During the 1965–66 season, there were 8,310 acres of vine-ripened tomatoes grown in Florida. The increasing imports from Mexico depressed the market to such an extent that great sums of money were lost by the Florida tomato growers, causing a 35 percent reduction in acreage in 2 years, from 8,310 acres to 6,570 acres.

From January 1, 1968, this year to May 1, 1968—the first 4 months of 1968—Mexico marketed one-half of the fresh tomatoes consumed in the United States. Also, Florida, some years ago, had 90 percent of the Canadian business; now Mexico has the 90 percent and Florida has only the 10 percent.

The thinking 5 years ago was that the Communist countries would never produce enough food for themselves, and Secretary Freeman had great hopes to export grain to Eastern Europe. Dr. Halloway, an economist from the University of Michigan, who traveled in Russia and Eastern Europe, who knows the situation, told the DARE—Developing agricultural resources effectively—Conference in Florida that the hope of selling grain to Eastern Europe has vanished.

With such changes in 5 years time, we can expect that Russia and the other Communist countries will be selling grain in the world markets. In India, they now have hybrid rice, which increases the yield 300 to 400 percent and also makes it possible to harvest three crops per year on the same land instead of two. Are we building up false hopes, expecting to export more agricultural products? Let me quote you some excerpts from U.S. News & World Report of March 4, 1968:

> You get this picture from new reports by U.S. Department of Agriculture—
>
> World farm production climbed four percent in 1967. Gains are outracing population growth. That includes India * * *.
>
> Harvest of grains is mounting. Wheat alone hit its second-highest mark.
>
> West Europe, Russia, the U.S. all posted sizable harvests last year. Russia has become the top cotton producer after the U.S. cut production.
>
> Forecasts is for still more records.
>
> Edible oils—peanut, soybean oils and butter, for instance—are expected to total best yet this year. Winter wheat outlook is rated on par with 1967.
>
> Washington's experts figure the world will produce more grain than can be sold for at least the next 10 or 15 years. Problem will be to bolster prices.
>
> Outlook in developing countries is growing. New strains of rice are being planted. Fertilizer use is rising. Aid projects are zeroing in on food.
>
> More countries are trying to feed themselves 100 percent—high-cost West Europe included. Result: markets for U.S. products are beeing closed off by protection. Consumers in European Common Market are paying more.
>
> Britain, of all places, is toying with self-sufficiency in meat and animal feed * * *.

Gentlemen of the Ways and Means Committee, let us hold to that bird we have in our hand. Let us not turn loose the one we have, expecting to catch the two in the bush. Let us save that segment of agriculture which has been a loyal group of farmers in Florida, who have produced the fresh vegetables and citrus fruit for years and years, the health food of our Nation during the winter months without subsidy or remuneration.