

So Mr. Vanik regretted that he wasn't able to be here. He had a previous commitment, but will be with these gentlemen later this afternoon. We appreciate the reception.

Mr. BETTS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to welcome Mr. Nowinski to the committee since you come from northern Ohio and I am almost up there myself in your district. I regret that I have to leave but I will come back if I can and study your statement. I will certainly read it over.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you very much. We will be pleased to hear you if you will identify yourself for the record.

STATEMENT OF JERRY NOWINSKI, CHAIRMAN, CLEVELAND GREENHOUSE GROWERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION; ACCOMPANIED BY ROGER RUETENIK AND RICHARD PRETZER

Mr. NOWINSKI. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce two fellow growers, Mr. Richard Pretzer and also Mr. Roger Ruetenik.

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the privilege to present the views of the greenhouse vegetable growers of the United States relative to H.R. 17551—proposed Trade Expansion Act of 1968—now before this committee.

My name is Jerry Nowinski, president of the Cleveland Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Cooperative Association. I am also speaking on behalf of the National Association of Greenhouse Vegetable Growers, the Grand Rapids, Mich., greenhouse industry, the Ohio Greenhouse Association, the Hamilton County (Cincinnati) Greenhouse Association, and the Toledo Greenhouse Association. I operate my own greenhouse near Cleveland, Ohio, where I am producing tomatoes, bibb and leaf lettuce.

In this brief you will find copies of letters from the presidents of the National Greenhouse Association, Ohio Greenhouse Association, Hamilton County (Cincinnati) Vegetable Growers Association, and the Toledo Greenhouse Association. These letters give additional support to the serious problem of effect of imports in the greenhouse vegetable industry. (Exhibits A, B, and C.)

Mr. HERLONG. Mr. Nowinski, I have just learned that there is a yeand-nay vote on the House floor. I wonder if we may suspend for a few moments. We will be back just as soon as we can possibly get back. There is one other witness after you. If you will permit us to answer the roll we will be right back. Please excuse us.

(A brief recess was taken.)

Mr. HERLONG. Again pardon us for having to leave. You may proceed, Mr. Nowinski.

Mr. NOWINSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue just to express our viewpoint on agriculture.

VIEWPOINT ON AGRICULTURE

For national security, health, and welfare of our citizens, we must have a strong and prosperous agricultural industry. A consistent food