

supply is essential, and a qualified, well-trained labor force available at all times.

The emphasis placed upon U.S. produced food during World War II supports this statement. The phenomenal growth of the entire U.S. economy has been possible due to the efficiency of American agriculture. The American housewife spends only 19 percent of her family income for food. For the best interests of our citizens, we believe a strong U.S. agriculture must be maintained.

We believe that a strong U.S. trading policy will benefit the producers of agricultural products if restrictions on imports are designed to encourage and give some protection to U.S. agricultural producers. A trade policy must encourage and protect the producers of such commodities as tomatoes and other vegetables. We cannot become dependent on foreign countries for our food supply. If tomatoes grown in Mexico are allowed to be shipped into the United States and sold at prices based on the wages paid to Mexican workers, U.S. tomato growers in Florida, California, Texas, as well as local State growers and the highly specialized greenhouse tomato growers, will be forced out of business. This will be a loss to the Nation, a loss to the people that own and operate the greenhouses and a loss to the many workers who depend on the vegetable greenhouse for a living.

U.S. GREENHOUSE TOMATO INDUSTRY ILLUSTRATES EFFECT OF UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS

The experiences of the U.S. greenhouse tomato industry illustrates the problem which can occur when imports are permitted to enter this country with little consideration to local market conditions.

Greenhouse vegetable production is one of the most specialized forms of commercial agriculture in the United States today. At the present time, there are about 1,000 acres of land in the United States covered with greenhouses for the production of tomatoes, bibb and leaf lettuce, cucumbers, watercress, and radishes. These 1,000 acres of greenhouses produce 160 million pounds, which generate \$40 million annually in our economy. About 500 acres are concentrated in Ohio. The tomato is the leading crop produced in vegetable greenhouses in the United States. Horticulturally speaking, the greenhouse tomato is grown to perfection and has the finest quality of any tomato grown in the world.

In 1968, to produce these fine tomatoes, it will cost a grower about \$125,000 per acre to erect a greenhouse. This will give you some idea of the amount of money which the U.S. greenhouse vegetable growers have invested in their business. (\$125 million). Over the years, the greenhouse tomato grower has had to face the competition from Florida, Texas, California, and other areas where tomatoes are raised out of doors. By using the latest scientific know-how and good managerial ability, many greenhouse growers have been able to meet this competition.

Sometimes the competition was rough and the greenhouse grower sold tomatoes at prices lower than the cost of production. But, for the most part, our industry was able to exist with this competition.