

STATEMENT OF ROBERT M. KERR, ATTORNEY, SPECIALTY CROPS CONFERENCE

This statement is submitted by the U.S. Specialty Crops Conference through its spokesman Robert M. Kerr, attorney, 801 Standard Plaza, Portland, Oregon 97204.

The Conference is an organization of agricultural commodity groups engaged in the production and marketing of perennial horticultural crops in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Michigan, and New York State.

The agricultural industries involved are those which grow, process, and handle dates, figs, filberts, sweet cherries, and walnuts. The combined average annual farm value of the production of these crops exceeds \$200 million. The specific commodity organizations on behalf of which the Conference presents this statement include:

California Dried Fig Advisory Board and California Fig Institute, 1205 East Olive Avenue, Fresno, California.

Date Packers Council, Post Office Box 764, Indio, California.

National Cherry Growers and Industries Foundation, 302 North 29th Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97330.

Northwest Cherry Briners Association, 302 North 29th Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97330.

Oregon Filbert Commission, 12295 Southwest Main Street, Tigard, Oregon.

Walnut Control Board, 2040 Pioneer Court, San Mateo, California.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT

1. Each of these five perennial tree-crop industries is dependent for its continued existence upon reasonable protection in its domestic U.S. market from excessive imports.

2. "Adjustment assistance" such as was authorized by the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, or as proposed under the Trade Expansion Act of 1968 (HR 17551) could have no practicable application to growers of these perennial tree crops. Relocation or crop-substitution grants or loans, or retraining for new vocations, is not practicable for any of these industries, and could not possibly provide any workable or satisfactory substitute for direct protection against excessive imports.

3. Any new or renewed Trade Expansion Act which includes any program of trade adjustment assistance for those adversely affected by imports should specifically provide for participation by the Secretary of Agriculture in any factual determinations, or policy recommendations, relative to the administration of such adjustment assistance as to any agricultural industry or growers, workers, and businesses engaged therein.

4. Any new or amended trade legislation should authorize accomplishment, in appropriate instances, of effective quantitative imports limitation, either through import quotas established by unilateral U.S. action or by means of international commodity arrangements.

5. A workable, fair, and promptly functioning "escape" mechanism is an essential provision in any legislation under which import duty rates or other imports regulations may be reduced or modified.

6. Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 (7 USC 624) should be amended to extend to commodities not under a domestic control program.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Dates, figs, filberts, sweet cherries, and walnuts, are all perennial tree crops which require high fixed investments over a long-term cycle. The principal areas of commercial production are in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Michigan, New York State, and Utah. The combined value of their annual production greatly exceeds \$200 million. Each of them must depend upon the domestic U.S. market for their sales. None of them has any present or foreseeable significant export market, with the exception of the exports of in-shell walnuts diverted from the domestic market under surplus-disposal provisions of a federal walnut marketing order.

The volume of foreign production of each of these crops far exceeds the U.S. production and is traded in the world market at prices substantially lower than U.S. prices. Costs of the foreign production continue to be far less than the minimum possible U.S. costs. In contrast with the American industries' dependence upon their own domestic market, practically all of the other countries which