

(6) Fig processing plants and fig processing equipment are specialized pieces of equipment and can not be converted to any other use. The equipment in a fig plant, if the industry can not survive, would only have scrap or junk value.

(7) The production of Dried Figs is the primary business venture for growers in the California Industry. This is not the case, however, in some foreign countries where, according to reliable information, figs are considered to be a secondary crop. This is illustrated by the fact that until a few years ago farmers in Spain did not realize Dried Figs had a cash value and they were used for animal feed.

(8) Any tariff reduction on Dried Figs or Fig Paste would result in a substantial portion of the present California fig acreage being pulled out. The removal of this acreage would immediately reduce labor requirements in an area where the percentage of unemployment is already higher than the national average.

(9) Per hour labor costs in California are as much as 14 times greater for field labor and 15 to 20 times greater in processing plants than comparable wages in foreign fig producing countries.

(10) Through self-help programs, financed by producer and processor assessments, the California Dried Fig Industry supports Research, Advertising and Quality Control Programs. To the best of our knowledge no funds are being spent by foreign producers and processors to increase consumption or improve the Industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the foregoing and other reasons, as outlined in this Brief, and in the files and publications of the U.S. Tariff Commission, the California Dried Fig Industry believes it has demonstrated the special circumstances surrounding the two-like commodities, Dried Figs and Fig Paste, and therefore makes the following recommendations:

(1) That the California Dried Fig Industry be excluded from any legislative or other measures which may have a detrimental affect on an already depressed Specialty Crop Industry.

(2) That in view of the wide variation between foreign and domestic production and processing costs as reflected in the low selling prices for foreign dried figs and fig paste, serious consideration should be given to an increased rate of duty on each item.

(3) That, as a realistic means of developing an orderly market at a stabilized price, to protect domestic fig producers from ruinous flooding of their market with excessive imports, some type of quantitative import limitation or quota be established. Foreign Producers and Processors would still be assured of a competitive opportunity in the U.S. Market.

(4) That it be clearly recognized that producers of a perennial tree crop, such as figs, cannot be "adjusted" to loss of imports protection through any form of "adjustment assistance" such as is incorporated in the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 or any conceivable version thereof.

(5) That any policy for freer trade not disregard those industries such as the California Dried Fig Industry which unavoidably are dependent upon reasonable protection from ruinous and unfair import competition.

BRIEF SUBMITTED BY COMMISSIONER DOYLE CONNER, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE FUTURE OF U.S. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY: THE PERSPECTIVE OF FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

In setting forth the functions, powers and duties of the State Department of Agriculture as reorganized effective in 1961, The Florida Statutes State in part as follows: [in Sec. 570.07(7)] "Extend in every practicable way the distribution and sale of Florida Agricultural products throughout the world," and [in Sec. 570.07(17)] "... to do all that can be done to bring relief and aid in the marketing and distribution of Florida's products."

This brief is submitted in discharge of those responsibilities with due concern for both our export market opportunities and foreign competition in our domestic markets.

Testimony was presented on my behalf at a hearing on export problems scheduled by the Small Business Committee of the U.S. Senate at Miami, Florida, for