

nation; and furthermore, leave the United States consumer at the mercy of supply and price policies set by foreign governments for substantial parts of their food needs: Therefore be it

Resolved, That The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in convention assembled at Atlanta, Georgia, October 1-5, 1967, (1) supports domestic agricultural industries in their position of maintaining present levels of import tariffs for agricultural products; (2) urges the Congress of the United States to determine with advice and guidance of the States and representatives of domestic agricultural producers, what additional protection and limitations are needed in light of import discrimination on the part of other nations and their ability to "over supply" the United States market; and (3) urges the Congress of the United States to expeditiously initiate legislation based on said findings.

STATEMENT OF M. F. FROST, VICE-PRESIDENT, TEXAS FARM BUREAU

We thank you for the opportunity to present TFB's ideas regarding future U.S. trade policy. Texas Farm Bureau is a general farm organization with a membership of more than 105,000 member families in our state, representing every commodity produced in our great state. Texas Farm Bureau is a voluntary, non-governmental organization and is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation. The Texas Farm Bureau supports the statement presented by AFBF on June 13, 1968. Our statement today is not to duplicate their remarks but to add to them and relate more specifically some of the problems faced by our state in world trade.

Imports

We are in favor of expanded world trade and believe in reduced restrictions to increase the flow of products between countries. But our membership is becoming increasingly concerned with restrictions placed on our agricultural products by other countries and the increased flow into the United States of agricultural products from other countries. Since Mexico is on our Southern border, we are particularly concerned with the dramatic rise in imports from that country. As our costs of production have increased, the increase in agricultural imports from Mexico has been even greater. An excellent example of the effect of this combination (increased production costs and Mexican imports) is strawberry production in Texas. I live in McAllen in the lower Rio Grande Valley and am quite familiar with the situation. In 1946, Orval Stites of Donna, Texas, was shipping strawberries all over the United States.

During this same year, he shipped the first plane load of strawberries to Canada. In 1960 he employed 2,000 people and harvested approximately 225 acres with gross sales of \$700,000 for that year. In April of 1967, Mr. Stites, after gradually reducing his strawberry acreage to 40 acres and selling his final crop at a heavy loss, closed his strawberry business. All the other strawberry producers in Texas had quite before he had, but the announcement that Mr. Stites had to give up was the most stunning. Here was an individual who had come to the Valley in 1931, worked hard, experimented, innovated, promoted his product vigorously, and had built a business of which not only Mr. Stites, but the entire area, was quite proud. We thought it rather ironic that at the same time Mr. Stites announced he had to quit his strawberry business, Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon was introducing a bill in the Senate to restrict Mexican strawberry imports to protect the Oregon strawberry growers!

Mr. Stites did not quit farming. He and his son are growing cotton, grain, and tomatoes. He didn't quit. But in the last seven years over 300 growers in this four-county area have gone out of business, and unless conditions change in the near future, experts predict another 35% of the present growers will go out of business. In 1945-46 the Valley shipped 75,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables. In the 1965-66 season, total shipments were down to 26,000 carloads. Mr. Stites and we others who grow and ship tomatoes are now facing the situation that he faced in strawberries. In 1943, the Valley area shipped 10,142 carloads of tomatoes—in 1965, 1201 carloads. In 1945, approximately 40,000 acres were planted in tomatoes, this spring less than 2,000 acres. True, part of the reduction this year was because of soil conditions caused by Hurricane Beulah last fall, but under normal conditions, the tomato acreage would have been less