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Beef Import Agreement - Correction of the Record

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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average imports had been computed over the past 5 years, instead of the last 2 years.

In addition, I am somewhat concerned about the effect such an agreement will have on efforts to aid the domestic livestock industry, in light of the delicate state of our international trade negotiations. Frankly, I am anxious to see a much more realistic quota established, either through U.S. Tariff Commission recommendations or congressional action. It is for this reason that my colleague [Mr. METCALF] and I have prepared, for introduction, legislation which would establish a quota system on beef imports, based on the past 5-year average.

Mr. President, I introduce this bill, on behalf of myself, my colleague, the Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF], the Senators from North Dakota [Mr. YOUNG and Mr. BURDICK], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. MCGOVERN], and the Senators from Iowa [Mr. HICKENLOOPER and Mr. MILLER]; and I ask unanimous consent to have printed at the conclusion of my remarks the text of this proposed legislation and a letter on the same issue which my colleague, the Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF] and I addressed to the U.S. Tariff Commission.

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to have the bill held at the desk, for additional cosponsors, until Monday, February 24.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the bill and letter will be printed in the RECORD, and the bill will be held at the desk, as requested by the Senator from Montana.

The bill (S. 2525) to restrict imports of beef, veal, and mutton into the United States, introduced by Mr. MANSFIELD (for himself and other Senators), was received, read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the total quantities of beef, veal, and mutton (in all forms except canned, cured and cooked meat, and live animals) originating in any country which may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption during any period of twelve months shall not exceed the average annual quantities of such products imported from such country during the five-year period ending on December 31, 1963: Provided, That beginning January 1, 1965, there may be an annual increase in the total quantities of such products which may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for such purpose, corresponding to the annual rate of increase in the total United States market for such products, as estimated by the Secretary of Agriculture."

The letter presented by Mr. MANSFIELD is as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., February 17, 1964.

Mr. BEN D. DORFMAN,
Chairman, U.S. Tariff Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to a resolution adopted by the Senate Finance Committee, the U.S. Tariff Commission will soon begin an investigation of the impact of foreign cattle and beef imports on the domestic market. This is a matter of considerable importance to the State of Montana as one of the leading producers in the livestock industry.

The problems now plaguing the ranchers are many and complex. Each day our mail brings new and more desperate appeals for aid in stopping the present decline in cattle prices. There is an immediate need to stabilize the cattle and beef market or we fear we will be faced with a situation of momentous proportions.

This is a many sided problem, but one of the major causes is the increasing share of the domestic market that is being taken over

by the importers. The trend over the past several years has been in this direction until we now find that imported beef equals more than 11 percent of U.S. production. What has been a threat has now been compounded into an unfair and difficult situation.

As the members of the Commission know, the United States is the only major beef market without quantitative restrictions and very low duties. Also, we take 51 percent of the world trade in beef. On the basis of these facts, we wish to support the industry in its request for an establishment of a quota system or tariff protection based on domestic consumption and production.

The executive branch of our Government has the authority to provide relief to the cattle industry. The need is amply demonstrated. The Nation's Government must take the initiative to prevent a very serious economic depression in one of our basic industries. The Tariff Commission can recommend the necessary relief to the President. If the Federal Government does its part, it will then be up to the industry itself to handle problems such as excessive marketing, new marketing methods, and consumer preferences.

With best personal wishes, we are,
Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD,
U.S. Senator.
LEE METCALF,
U.S. Senator.

SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD C. OSTERTAG

Mr. KEATING. Mr. President, yesterday our distinguished colleague in the other body, Representative HAROLD C. OSTERTAG, announced that he would not be a candidate for reelection as a Member of Congress from New York. Representative OSTERTAG represented the district geographically adjacent to mine when I served in the other body. He has had a distinguished career there. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has been in conference with many Members of this body, who must have learned from those conferences how sound and conscientious he is in the performance of his duties.

Congressman OSTERTAG fought for his country in World War I, enlisting in the 74th Infantry, 27th Division. He served with the 55th Pioneer Infantry in the American Expeditionary Force.

He has served as State vice commander of the American Legion. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Elks, and the Attica Grange and the Wyoming County Farm Bureau.

His adult life has, in fact, been dedicated to public service in his district—the 37th District—his State and his country.

He is leaving the Congress in full vigor and in good health. I am sure he leaves with the good wishes of all of us who have served with him and who know of his outstanding service to his country.

I express the hope that he will enjoy his retirement.

Before his service in the Congress, he served for many years in the New York State Legislature, so he has had three decades of dedicated and distinguished public service. I wish him and his wife and family great happiness and the enjoyment of a long life.

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, will my colleague yield?

Mr. KEATING. I am happy to yield.

BEEF IMPORT AGREEMENT—CORRECTION OF THE RECORD

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, on February 20, 1964, I addressed the Senate on the new beef import agreement and the general subject of beef imports. At the conclusion of my remarks I had intended to insert a copy of a letter my colleague [Mr. METCALF] and I addressed to the U.S. Tariff Commission on the cattle and beef import situation. Inadvertently the attachment was a letter to the U.S. Tariff Commission, but on the subject of copper imports.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the body of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my statement "Beef Import Agreement" and the correct attachments.

There being no objection, the statement and attachments were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BEEF IMPORT AGREEMENT

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, on Monday, the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture announced a voluntary agreement with Australia and New Zealand on beef imports. These two countries provide approximately 80 percent of our imports of fresh and frozen beef and veal. The agreement, as I understand it, is subject to review after 3 years.

In brief, the agreement guarantees foreign exporters of beef to the United States approximately 11 percent of our domestic market, holding Australian and New Zealand exports to the United States at the 1962-63 average, allowing for consumption growth.

Mr. President, this is a small step—a very small one—in the right direction; but it is not enough. It provides little protection for our domestic industry at a time when prices are down. During the current calendar year, it will provide a 6-percent reduction, as compared with 1963 imports.

The idea of a voluntary negotiated agreement with these two major beef exporters is excellent—but certainly not one that guarantees foreign suppliers such a major foothold on our beef market. We cannot blame Australia and New Zealand when they can get an agreement which will permit them to continue to export to the United States at a rate comparable to those of the two highest years in history. The American cattle industry is the one that is being hurt. It would have been far more realistic if the