2-25-1964

Beef Import Agreement - Correction of the Record

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
Correction of the Congressional Record of February 20, 1964, regarding beef imports.

3318

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

February 25, 1964

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 sent to have printed in the body of the Record after 3 years.

agreement with Australia announced a voluntary quota by the exporters for beef to the United States. The total quantities of such beef, mutton, and veal may be entered, or withdrawn from, warehousing, or consumed during any period of twelve months shall not exceed the annual average quantities of such products imported from such country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January 1, 1965, there shall be an annual increase in the total quantities of such products which may be entered, or withdrawn from warehousing, or consumed, for corresponding year, for the annual rate of increase in the total United States market for such products, as estimated by the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:


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

Dear Mr. DOUGLASS: In response to a resolution adopted by the Senate Finance Committee, the U.S. Tariff Commission would begin an investigation of the impact of foreign beef and cattle imports on the domestic market. This is a matter of considerable importance to Montana and 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 appeals for aid in stopping the present decline in cattle prices. There is an immediate need to stabilize the market or we fear we will be faced with a situation of momentous proportions.

This is a major 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. We now find that imported beef equals more than 11 percent of U.S. production. What happens if this trend is 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 applied by low tariff levels to 0.2 percent of the world trade in beef. On the basis of these facts, we wish to support the initiative in the request for an establishment of a quota system or tariff protection based on domestic consumption and production.

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 House of Representatives, 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 served with distinction, and is 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 our country in World War II, the 74th Infantry, 27th Division. He served with the 55th Pioneer Infantry in the American Expeditionary Forces.

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 Orange and the Wyoming County Farm Bureau.

His adult life has, in fact, been dedicated to public service in his district—his 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 Assembly. It has been a 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.

Mike Mansfield Papers, Series 21, Box 42, Folder 34, Mansfield Library, University of Montana