

Y4
.Ag 8/1
92

1010
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

91Y4
Ag 8/1
Q2

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUARANTINE STATION TO PERMIT ENTRY OF ANIMALS TO IMPROVE LIVESTOCK BREEDS

GOVERNMENT

Storage

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 11832, H.R. 12028, H.R. 13336,

H.R. 14451, and H.R. 14847

NOVEMBER 18 AND 19, 1969

Serial U

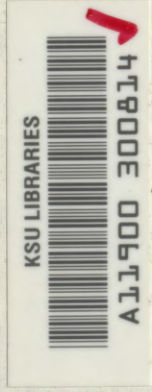
Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1969

39-304



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

W. R. POAGE, Texas, *Chairman*

JOHN L. McMILLAN, South Carolina,
Vice Chairman
THOMAS G. ABERNETHY, Mississippi
WATKINS M. ABBITT, Virginia
FRANK A. STUBBLEFIELD, Kentucky
GRAHAM PURCELL, Texas
MASTON O'NEAL, Georgia
THOMAS S. FOLEY, Washington
ELIGIO DE LA GARZA, Texas
JOSEPH P. VIGORITO, Pennsylvania
WALTER B. JONES, North Carolina
G. V. MONTGOMERY, Mississippi
B. F. SISK, California
BILL ALEXANDER, Arkansas
BILL D. BURLISON, Missouri
ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN, New York
JOHN R. RARICK, Louisiana
ED JONES, Tennessee
JOHN MELCHER, Montana

PAGE BELCHER, Oklahoma,
Ranking Minority Member
CHARLES M. TEAGUE, California
MRS. CATHERINE MAY, Washington
WILLIAM C. WAMPLER, Virginia
GEORGE A. GOODLING, Pennsylvania
CLARENCE E. MILLER, Ohio
ROBERT B. MATHIAS, California
WILEY MAYNE, Iowa
JOHN M. ZWACH, Minnesota
THOMAS S. KLEPPE, North Dakota
ROBERT D. PRICE, Texas
JOHN T. MYERS, Indiana
KEITH G. SEBELIUS, Kansas
MARTIN B. MCKNEALLY, New York
WILMER D. MIZELL, North Carolina

JORGE L. CORDOVA, Puerto Rico
Resident Commissioner

MRS. CHRISTINE S. GALLAGHER, *Clerk*
LACEY C. SHARP, *General Counsel*
HYDE H. MURRAY, *Associate Counsel*
L. T. EASLEY, *Staff Consultant*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS

GRAHAM PURCELL, Texas, *Chairman*

THOMAS S. FOLEY, Washington
G. V. MONTGOMERY, Mississippi
JOHN R. RARICK, Louisiana
WATKINS M. ABBITT, Virginia
WALTER B. JONES, North Carolina
ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN, New York
B. F. SISK, California
JOHN MELCHER, Montana

MRS. CATHERINE MAY, Washington
WILEY MAYNE, Iowa
JOHN M. ZWACH, Minnesota
THOMAS S. KLEPPE, North Dakota
ROBERT D. PRICE, Texas
KEITH G. SEBELIUS, Kansas

(II)

CONTENTS

H.R. 11832, a bill to provide for the establishment of an international quarantine station and to permit the entry therein of animals from any other country and the subsequent movement of such animals into other parts of the United States for purposes of improving livestock breeds, and for other purposes.....	Page 1
Statement of:	
Anderson, Robert J., Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....	2, 24
Bendix, Dr. W. L., secretary-treasurer, U.S. Animal Health Association, Richmond, Va.....	18
Chappell, Hon. Bill, Jr., a Representative in Congress from the State of Florida.....	40
Clarkson, Dr. M. Robert, executive vice president, American Veterinary Medical Association, Chicago, Ill.....	10
McMillan, C. W., executive vice president, American Cattlemen's Association, Denver, Colo.....	33
Moore, Jerry, trustee and treasurer, American Simmental Association, Alliance, Ohio.....	23
Price, Hon. Robert D., a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas.....	27
Purdy, Robert, representing North American Limousin Foundation, Denver, Colo.....	15
Thompson, Peter S., independent Charolais breeder, Easton, Md.....	21
Correspondence submitted to the subcommittee:	
Fitzhugh, H. A., Fitzhugh-Straus Medina Hereford Ranch, San Antonio, Tex., letter of October 23, 1969.....	41
Paddock, Clayton S., president, American-International Charolais Association, Houston, Tex., letter of November 12, 1969.....	22
Plager, Wilbur, American Yorkshire Club, Inc., Lafayette, Ind., letter of November 14, 1969.....	42
Schambers, Doug, chairman, Oregon Sheep Advisory Council, Salem, Oreg., telegram of November 17, 1969.....	43
Sharp, M. W., D.V.M., Castroville, Tex., letter of October 18, 1969....	40

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUARANTINE STATION TO PERMIT ENTRY OF ANIMALS TO IMPROVE LIVE- STOCK BREEDS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1969

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 1301, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Graham Purcell (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Purcell, Montgomery, Rarick, Jones of North Carolina, Mayne, Zwach, Price of Texas, and Sebelius.

Also present: Christine Gallagher, clerk.

Mr. PURCELL. The subcommittee will please come to order.

Today we are meeting to have hearings on a series of bills that have been introduced pertaining to the establishment of a livestock quarantine station. It is hoped that the hearings today and tomorrow will be sufficient to hear all those who are interested in this matter. This is a very important endeavor in which many of us think that the U.S. Government should be involved. I think it would be very meaningful to the livestock industry if we can establish a quarantine station, and I appreciate very much all of you being here.

(Following is the text of H.R. 11832, introduced by Mr. Purcell, and which is similar to H.R. 12028 by Mr. Price, H.R. 13336 by Mr. Miller of Ohio, H.R. 14451 by Mr. Foley, and H.R. 14847 by Mr. Mayne:)

[H.R. 11832, 91st Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To provide for the establishment of an international quarantine station and to permit the entry therein of animals from any other country and the subsequent movement of such animals into other parts of the United States for purposes of improving livestock breeds, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in his discretion, to establish and maintain an international animal quarantine station within the territory of the United States. The quarantine station shall be located on an island selected by the Secretary of Agriculture where, in his judgment, maximum animal disease and pest security measures can be maintained. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire land or any interest therein, by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise and construct or lease buildings, improvements, and other facilities as may be necessary for the establishment and maintenance of such quarantine station. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to prevent the introduction or dissemination of livestock or poultry disease or pests, animals may be brought into the quarantine station from any country, including but not limited to those countries in which the Secretary of Agriculture determines that rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease exists, and subsequently moved into other parts of the United States, in accordance with

such conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine are adequate in order to prevent the introduction into and the dissemination within the United States of livestock or poultry diseases or pests. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate in such manner as he deems appropriate, with other North American countries or with breeders' organizations or similar organizations or with individuals within the United States regarding importation of animals into and through the quarantine station and to charge and collect reasonable fees for use of the facilities of such station from importers. Such fees shall be deposited into the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the appropriation charged with the operating expenses of the quarantine station. The Secretary is authorized to issue such regulations as he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 2. The provisions and penalties of section 545 of title 18, United States Code, shall apply to the bringing of animals to the quarantine station or the subsequent movement of animals to other parts of the United States contrary to the conditions prescribed by the Secretary in regulations issued hereunder.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Mr. PURCELL. The first witness that I will call will be Dr. Robert J. Anderson, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

So, Dr. Anderson, if you will come around, please, and, if you will, please introduce for the record whomever is accompanying you for its edification of those who are present.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT J. ANDERSON, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. EVERETT J. WARWICK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY RESEARCH, ANIMAL RESEARCH SERVICE; AND HAROLD P. CARTER, OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. ANDERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Dr. Robert J. Anderson, Associate Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service. I have with me on my left Dr. Everett J. Warwick, Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, and on my right, Mr. Harold P. Carter, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you. Please proceed.

Dr. ANDERSON. I appreciate this opportunity to present the Department of Agriculture's position on H.R. 11832.

The facility proposed is an international, maximum security, import animal quarantine station. It would be established at an offshore location on U.S. territory, under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture. American livestock producers, breeders, and research institutions could import foreign animal breeds through this facility, as a means for upgrading the genetic quality of the domestic livestock population.

Because of the security measures that would be maintained at the facility along with the use of laboratory tests and other rigid procedures, livestock and wild animals in the United States would still be protected against exposure to such destructive foreign diseases and pests as foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. The Department would thus continue to carry out its responsibility for preventing livestock diseases from entering the United States from foreign countries.

There is at present an absolute statutory prohibition against the importation of ruminants and swine, as well as against fresh, chilled, or frozen meat from such animals, if they originate in countries that the Department has declared to be infected with foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest. This prohibition is contained in section 306 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. Wild zoo animals are specifically exempted, but only if they are to be exhibited at an approved zoological park. Furthermore, once these animals reach an approved park, they cannot be moved except to another approved geological park.

Other statutes, generally referred to as the animal quarantine laws, broaden the prohibitions and restrictions to include other destructive livestock diseases and pests.

Under Federal regulations prohibitions and restrictions are applied not only to the importation of animals, meats, and animal byproducts, but to all materials as hay, straw, and forage from all countries, especially those where foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist. All of these regulations are based on the best and most current scientific information available. This includes the results of research conducted at the ARS Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory in Long Island, N.Y.

To date, efforts to accomplish the objectives of these various laws and regulations are proving highly successful. Except for the limited introduction of breeding animals through the proposed facility, the present prohibitory statutes preventing the entry of domestic ruminants and swine, and fresh or fresh frozen meats and meat products would continue.

But this kind of protection is only a part of efforts to keep the American livestock industry prosperous. The marketplace today is far more competitive than it was 50, 20, or even 10 years ago. This means that domestic livestock producers must continually upgrade the quality of their products while achieving further efficiency and economy in production.

Some of the changes that are taking place originate with consumers. For example, a continuing rise in our standard of living is creating stronger consumer demands for more livestock products, particularly beef. And in certain instances, notably meat and milk, this increased demand is highly selective. More and more consumers are looking for new or improved products that contain less fat and greater proportions of other desirable nutrients.

Many such products have been developed, and many more are on the way. But time is the critical element here. The very nature of livestock production makes it most difficult to adjust production patterns and methods quickly.

UPGRADING THE GENETIC QUALITY OF DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

A basic solution to this problem is the selective breeding and development of animals that possess the characteristics desired. This is at best a slow process. And it is complicated by the fact that the genetic base of some classes of livestock in the United States is extremely limited.

American beef cattle, dairy cattle, and sheep are based on a small number of breeds from a very few countries of origin. Most of them

originated in the British Isles. The Netherlands supplied our most important dairy breed, and France contributed our most important sheep breed. All of these bloodlines were introduced into our country between 60 and 80 years ago.

Today, scientific observations and preliminary investigations suggest that other foreign breeds may have the characteristics we need for meeting current and future needs.

Further, in both theory and practice, it has been found that the more diverse the genetic contributions of the parents, the more vigorous and productive the resulting hybrid will be. This has already been demonstrated in the plant kingdom. By crossing germ plasm from exotic foreign plants with domestic crop plants, plant geneticists have developed many new and high-yielding hybrid varieties that are now grown extensively on American ranches and farms.

Both the American livestock industry and the American consumer, then, stand to benefit from the introduction and organized use of certain foreign animal breeds. The changes desired could thus be brought about more rapidly and efficiently.

Of course, these changes should not be achieved at the risk of introducing a livestock disease or pest not now present in this country. But they could be achieved, we believe, through the application of existing technology on foreign animal diseases and safe and orderly use of the quarantine facility under the absolute control of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Some of the specific changes we anticipate could bring about a revolution of sorts in American livestock production. For beef cattle producers, these changes might include increases in weaning weight and in postweaning growth rates and muscularity. Other possible improvements might include a decrease in the proportion of carcass waste, and improved fertility and calf survival. Dairy farmers could look for increases in milk production, fertility, and calf survival.

We anticipate that about \$2.5 million would be needed on a non-recurring basis for constructing the facilities. We further estimate that maintenance and operating expenses will total about \$1.3 million annually.

Maintenance and operating costs would be offset largely by collecting fees from importers for use of the quarantine facilities. Such fees would cover costs involved in the care, feeding, and handling of animals during the quarantine period. Fees would also cover other costs incident to quarantining the animals. These costs include expenses for equipment, utilities, fences, supplies, and materials—to the extent that these items are not covered by appropriations.

In this connection, the budgetary situation is such that we are now implementing plans to reduce Federal funds for construction. Because of this, we would have to consider the need for increased appropriations to construct and operate the proposed quarantine station along with other high-priority programs of the Department.

The Department recommends enactment of H.R. 11832 with the following amendment:

On page 2, line 6 after the "period" add the sentence:

The Secretary of Agriculture, on behalf of the United States, is authorized to accept any gift or donation of money, personal property, buildings, improvements, and other facilities for the purpose of conducting the functions authorized under this Act.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement.

I will be glad to answer questions.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you very much, Dr. Anderson.

Mr. Mayne?

Mr. MAYNE. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Montgomery, do you have any questions?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. No.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Zwach?

Mr. ZWACH. Dr. Anderson, is this special area in livestock research the one in which you are thoroughly grounded?

Dr. ANDERSON. Mr. Congressman, I am a veterinarian and the Associate Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service which conducts research on foreign animal diseases, on livestock breeding, and we carry out programs of animal disease control and eradication. In the Department, we have the scientific competence considered necessary to operate and carry out the functions of this bill as it was intended.

Mr. ZWACH. To your best knowledge, there are foreign countries breeds of cattle and livestock that, if brought in and used, crossed with our own, that would perhaps improve the quality and other features of our livestock industry; is that your belief?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir. Our livestock breeders—and Dr. Warwick to my left here is a geneticist and is Assistant Director of the Animal Husbandry Research Division—are of the opinion that they have knowledge of foreign breeds not now in this country, which if introduced and crossed with our domestic breeds would bring about a revolutionary change in livestock production particularly the beef cattle. As I mentioned, it would increase the hybrid vigor and do much toward improving our breeds.

Mr. ZWACH. Is there now any restriction on the in-movement of semen for crossing purposes?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir. Semen from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists is very stringently regulated, and it is possible that the cost is almost prohibitive. But it does provide a means of introduction if it is so desired. The cost for an induction of a lot of semen will run somewhere between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to bring this under our supervision and stringent tests, so this would place \$20 to \$30 a vial for such semen, and then it would be only a means for bringing in a part of the desired germ plasm because it would be much faster if they had the opportunity to bring in females.

Mr. ZWACH. It is your real conclusion that this type of a facility, a quarantine facility, would adequately protect our own livestock production against hoof-and-mouth and these other diseases?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir, we are satisfied that animals brought in under the safeguards that are proposed with these facilities would not be a means of introduction of foreign animal diseases.

This means bringing to bear the technology of our foreign animal disease expert at Plum Island Research Laboratory and bringing to bear all of the knowledge on the foreign diseases in foreign nations. It also will bring to bear experience that Canada has had for the past 5 years in the operation of a maximum security quarantine station on Grosse Ile. We have participated in the operation there as an observer, we are satisfied that the procedures and safeguards that they are now apply-

ing are adequate to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into North America.

Mr. ZWACH. Is there any other country that is doing a better job in animal research and in improvement, than our own country?

Dr. ANDERSON. I would say that the new foreign germ plasms that the Canadians are bringing in under their quarantine system has given them the edge over our livestock producers and animal breeders.

Mr. ZWACH. You know, I am a cattle feeder.

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. That is my business.

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. And I buy western cattle and feed them on my feedlots in Minnesota, and I am aware of what crossbreeding does.

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. It adds vigor, the growth, and the more vitality. So, I am particularly interested in this area, but I am also interested in keeping out disease. So, I am very interested in this legislation and hope to be able to support it.

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir. Well, we are satisfied that it will provide the necessary safeguards to prevent the introduction of diseases.

Mr. ZWACH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Mayne?

Mr. MAYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Has any decision, tentative or otherwise, been made as to where this station would be located?

Dr. ANDERSON. No, sir. We think it would be preferable to locate it in the Caribbean region. We have made a rather limited survey of possible sites. We have looked at about 15 different ones, and some of them we believe offer a pretty good opportunity. They are all on U.S. territory.

Mr. MAYNE. I noticed in an article that was made available to us that the Virgin Islands were being considered as a possible site. Is that true?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir; one of the islands. I might mention the locations of the places that we have looked at without indicating which one might offer advantages over the other. We need to look into this very closely. We have looked into the Culebra Island off the coast of Puerto Rico; Vieques, another island off the coast of the mainland of Puerto Rico; Buck Island; St. Croix, and St. John and St. Thomas, the three of them being the Virgin Islands.

Mr. MAYNE. Where, on St. Thomas?

Dr. ANDERSON. We do not have any particular location at this time. It is all private land, and it really says here there is no suitable site. We have looked at it, but we have come up with a preliminary decision that there is no suitable site on the island of St. Thomas.

Mr. MAYNE. Now, the Canadian one, is it Grosse Ile, at Montreal?

Dr. ANDERSON. Grosse Ile, an island in the St. Lawrence River.

Mr. MAYNE. At Montreal?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes; I think close to Montreal.

Mr. MAYNE. Well, I would just like to know what your reasons are for having it so remote from the continental United States when the Canadians, who also have many islands available, have put theirs right next to their principal city?

Dr. ANDERSON. We believe that it is an added precaution. If anything should go wrong that would require the destruction of all of the animals, then we would feel more comfortable if it were off of the mainland. However, you could build a facility on the mainland. However, we would feel more comfortable with it off of the mainland.

Mr. MAYNE. Has there been any consideration of how much more expensive it would be to be shuttling department personnel over into the Caribbean, back and forth, as contrasted with something a little closer to home?

Dr. ANDERSON. We believe that the areas I mentioned here would not result in any material increase in expense over some island a little closer to the mainland. We would still have similar expenses.

Mr. MAYNE. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Price?

Mr. PRICE. Dr. Anderson, what quarantine facilities does the United States presently have?

Dr. ANDERSON. We have the quarantine facility at Clifton, N.J. We also have one at the Miami Airport. Those facilities are solely for the handling of animals from countries other than those where foot-and-mouth disease exists such as Ireland, North Ireland, and other countries that are not on the list of countries declared infected with foot-and-mouth disease. They also handle race horses and breeding horses from European countries, but they do not handle any cattle or ruminants or swine from countries where there is foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

Mr. PRICE. In other words, neither one of those stations handles cattle, sheep or hogs?

Dr. ANDERSON. Not from foot-and-mouth countries.

Mr. PRICE. What do you think would constitute an adequate quarantine facility to handle this sort of thing?

Dr. ANDERSON. The estimated \$2.5 million that I mentioned in my statement would provide space for the introduction of about 300 head of cattle per year.

Mr. PRICE. How about lambs and hogs—sheep?

Dr. ANDERSON. At the present time, our technology of disease testing is not considered to be adequate to allow the introduction of swine or sheep. The research people are working on it, and perhaps, in the not too distant future adequate knowledge of the disease will be such that we can also bring in swine and sheep safely, but we do not now consider that our state of knowledge would warrant such introduction.

Mr. PRICE. Well, what diseases are you specifically talking about? It seems to me like it would be rather an adequate facility with the technology that we have today, where we would be able to introduce sheep and hogs along with it.

Dr. ANDERSON. These are the diseases that we are speaking of in cattle, primarily foot-and-mouth disease. But, we can detect the carrier animal in cattle with accuracy. In the case of swine and sheep, the same tests are not equally as effective.

Mr. PRICE. Is not hoof-and-mouth disease transmittable in semen also?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. PRICE. In livestock or in cattle?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. PRICE. It is transmittable.

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. PRICE. What facilities and what tests do you have that would prevent that from happening?

Dr. ANDERSON. Under our present regulations, there is a provision where you can bring in semen from foot-and-mouth countries. First, you test the animal and determine the extent possible that it is safe and disease free. Then, you proceed with the collection of the semen. We take 10 percent of the semen and send it to our Plum Island Laboratory where part of it is injected into live animals subcutaneously or interabdominally to determine whether or not it is free of the virus of foot-and-mouth disease. That is where some of the terrific costs occur in the importation of semen. It costs \$25,000 to \$35,000 a lot to get it through all of these required inspections and tests before it would be considered safe for importing.

Mr. PRICE. Does Canada, at their station, do this presently?

Dr. ANDERSON. It depends on the different sources of the animals. The animals coming to a U.S. quarantine station, would have to originate on a premise that is free of the disease; must be an animal that has never been exposed to disease; the animal must be 6 months of age or younger, and the area where it originates has not been infected for the past year. If you start from that premise and apply all of the tests and the quarantine, it does not require the testing of the semen. All of the other laboratory tests involve serum tests including testing the material that is obtained from the throat using the probang. So, the animal is judged to be free of the disease. If you bring in semen from an animal that is born and raised to adulthood, perhaps, it may have been vaccinated in a foreign country; then, you would have to subject the donor animal to all of these other tests, including testing the semen in live animals before you can judge that semen to be safe.

Mr. PRICE. Would you not say the whole question here of whether to establish a station or not to establish a station turns on the threat of introducing hoof-and-mouth disease into this country? The opponents against it say that we would be risking the introduction of hoof-and-mouth disease into this country. Is this not really what the struggle is between? We know we need it, but there is also a great alarm about the introduction of foreign diseases into this country, is there not?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir, that is true. That is the basis for the statute that prohibits the introduction of animals and animal products from such countries. It was only in recent years that we have reached the conclusion that cattle can be brought in with safety. With the more recent development of technology, our scientists have been able to determine that certain animals from certain parts of the country, subjected to certain tests and quarantine can be judged to be free of foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. PRICE. Can foot-and-mouth disease be introduced into the United States through the raw meat that is being imported into this country at the present time, just as well?

Dr. ANDERSON. No raw meat is permitted entry from a country where foot-and-mouth disease exists, such as Brazil, Argentina, and other South American countries. That meat must be fully processed in a

manner to destroy the virus. It is fully cooked before it is permitted entry into this country.

Mr. PRICE. That is all.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Sebelius?

Mr. SEBELIUS. No questions.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Rarick, do you have any questions?

Mr. RARICK. I have no questions.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. No.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, Dr. Anderson, just one or two questions now, following up what Mr. Price was asking you. With the situation as now exists and allowing cattle to be brought into the United States through the Canadian quarantine station, we are now bringing in cattle into this country, and have been for some 4 or 5 years, that have originated in these countries that have had foot-and-mouth disease—my point being that it would be better for us to run a quarantine station than to depend on the Canadians. It would be even better protection from the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, or any other disease, if we had full control over this facility. We would also have what I would consider more assurance of having an honest operation because there would be less costs involved which tends to lead, in this area, to shady practices sometimes.

Do you see any added threat of the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease into this country if we had a quarantine station, as compared to our using the Canadian quarantine station?

Dr. ANDERSON. No, sir, I do not. I think, as I mentioned earlier, the success and safety of this operation depends upon the attention to very minute detail of quarantine and testing as well as attention to the individual animals that are being imported with the entire operation under the direct supervision of USDA veterinary officials. So, we do not believe that it would add to the risks at all.

Mr. PURCELL. I do not want to belabor this and keep you in the witness chair too long. We have other witnesses. But in connection with your having suggested an amendment here that would allow private money to be used to help build this station, I think that you and others in the Department have contemplated what might be a problem developing from such a recommendation. I can see the desirability of it, but I can also see that an assumption would be raised, I would suppose, that a given individual who is going to put some money in it ought to get some kind of favored treatment in getting the first few animals or getting some of the animals out of the first several.

Now, does this present a problem that you think would be so severe it would be impossible to make it work and still be fair and equitable to the treatment of all of those who wanted to import animals?

Dr. ANDERSON. No, sir. The Department would not enter into an arrangement or an agreement with any person or parties on the basis that they would be given any preferential treatment as far as the permits for the use of the facilities.

Mr. PURCELL. What are you going to do if a bunch of Congressmen start calling down there and say:

What are you doing to old Joe from my District? You took a bunch of his money, and I want you to give him better treatment.

Are you going to be tough enough to ward off that kind of an attack?

Dr. ANDERSON. We expect that we would establish a committee made up of geneticists and animal breeders and people knowledgeable in livestock breeding to pass judgment on the request for a permit to determine, first of all, what kind of a breeding program is planned. We would expect that the allotment of permits would come from such a body. If there were more permits requested than would be issued under that arrangement, we, very likely, would have to resort to some lottery system or drawing.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, you certainly have thought of the problems that this might present, and you feel that there would be an adequate way to work it out and handle it?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir, I believe we could.

Mr. PURCELL. Equitably?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. Now, Dr. Anderson, if there are no further questions from the members at this time, would it be possible for you and your colleagues to be here for the rest of the morning?

I have some more questions, but I want to be sure that we have heard from those witnesses who may have come from out of town and recall you, if you may, before we close the hearings today.

Dr. ANDERSON. We would be pleased to remain.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, thank you very much. And, if you will, stand aside.

Congressman Price, we had you down to be heard first.

Mr. PRICE. Just go ahead.

Mr. PURCELL. Then, we will next call Dr. Robert Clarkson, executive vice president, American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Clarkson, if you will come around, we will be glad to hear from you, sir.

Dr. CLARKSON. Mr. Chairman, I have with me Dr. Frank Todd, Washington representative of our association.

STATEMENT OF DR. M. ROBERT CLARKSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, CHICAGO, ILL.; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. FRANK A. TODD, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. CLARKSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) appreciates the invitation to present its views on this important legislation. Protection of the health of the Nation's animal resources is a vital concern of the members of the veterinary medical profession.

The strains of livestock and poultry already available for breeding purposes in the United States are among the finest in the world, with considerable genetic diversity of the parent stock. Nevertheless, it is recognized that genetic material from other areas of the world would add to the vigor, increase the versatility, and enhance the efficiency of our native herds and flocks. The AVMA has not made an independent study of these needs but is aware of some of the statements made by others, notably the Agricultural Research Service of USDA.

The United States, in common with the other countries of North America, is free of several of the most devastating animal diseases that

plague many areas of the world with a constant drain upon the efficiency of livestock and poultry production. Foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest are the most widespread and generally recognized as the most dangerous of these foreign animal diseases.

Rinderpest has never occurred as a disease in North America and no outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have occurred on this continent since 1954. Parenthetically, I might say that the disease is believed to exist on the island of Cuba. However, there have been a number of introductions of foot-and-mouth disease into North America from other continents—once in Mexico, once in Canada, and six times in the United States, since 1900. Each outbreak has been eradicated after tremendous effort by governments, livestock owners, and others, with substantial losses and the expenditure of large amounts of money.

The six outbreaks in the United States occurred during the first 30 years of this century. During the succeeding 40 years, in spite of enormously increased trade and traffic between the United States and all countries of the world and the occurrence of serious outbreaks in nearby Mexico, Canada, and Cuba, there have been no outbreaks in the United States. This prolonged period of freedom of the United States from foot-and-mouth disease did not just "happen."

State and Federal veterinarians have maintained a vigilant watch over the movements of livestock, livestock products, and other materials that might harbor the virus of the disease. More important than this, however, was the action taken by the Congress in 1930 when strong legislative authority was given to the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent the movement into the United States of the most likely carriers of the disease, that is, certain animals and animal products, from countries where these diseases exist. Without that legislation it is not likely that the efforts to prevent the introduction of the disease would have been effective.

For many years it has been the position of those most knowledgeable about foot-and-mouth disease that no change should be made in the controlling legislation. However, with the advancement of knowledge about the disease and the development of procedures to detect the virus in carrier animals—at the present time, only in cattle—it is possible to devise procedures for the importation of carefully selected susceptible cattle from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists without introducing the disease into North America. H.R. 11832, if passed, would provide the basis for such importation not only for the United States but also for the other countries of North America.

Current knowledge of rinderpest and the characteristics of the causative virus is sufficient to guide rigid procedures of inspection and quarantine to guard against introduction of this disease.

Mr. Chairman, the American Veterinary Medical Association supports this legislation. In doing so, we recognize that the establishment of the quarantine facilities with necessary safeguards will be an expensive undertaking and that the costs of operations will be very high. We recognize that there will be many extremely difficult problems connected with the administration of the act. With these points in mind, we urge that the committee report concerning the bill include the following:

1. A direction to the Department to make full use of current knowledge of foot-and-mouth disease, derived from both research and ex-

perience, and apply without deviation all necessary requirements to prevent introduction of these diseases into any part of North America.

2. A statement that access to the quarantine facility must be restricted to surface carriers. Shipment of animals by air inevitably creates problems of alternate landing sites, none of which would be equipped to provide the necessary safeguards against disease transmission.

3. A provision that no animals be brought to the quarantine facility until all necessary buildings, equipment, and staff are available.

4. A direction that provision be made for the immediate destruction and disposal of all susceptible animals exposed to any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest that may occur at the quarantine station.

5. A statement that adequate measures be provided to protect against the introduction of other important communicable diseases including, but not limited to, tuberculosis, brucellosis, scabies, trichomoniasis, vibriosis, anaplasmosis, and piroplasmosis.

The State veterinarians and the livestock industry of each of the States have a tremendous stake in this undertaking. In common with the Department, they must bear the brunt of any accident or careless handling that may occur in the administration of the proposed legislation.

It is recognized that administration of the proposed legislation would be entirely a Department responsibility. Nevertheless, much valuable assistance may be obtained from State veterinarians and others. The record of cooperation between the State and Federal Governments in the prevention, control, and eradication of animal diseases and the record of the Department in administering animal quarantine laws give confidence that the proposed legislation would be administered fairly and firmly. The American Veterinary Medical Association pledges its support.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you, Dr. Clarkson.

Mr. Mayne?

Mr. MAYNE. Dr. Clarkson, I was interested in your second point that the quarantine facility act be restricted to surface carriers. Now, if this facility were to be on one of these small islands, would it not be rather difficult to arrange for the transportation of this livestock?

Do you anticipate any difficulty there?

How large, for example, would this shipment be to this facility?

Dr. CLARKSON. I cannot answer that. I would have to leave that to the Department. As to the size of the shipments, these would normally be high-priced breeding stock, and probably would not be very large in numbers, perhaps 20 or 30.

Mr. MAYNE. Well, I can see the danger of air shipments because of the necessity to go to alternate airports, but on the other hand, I do not quite see how a small shipment could proceed with existing commercial surface traffic. It looks to me like they would almost have to charter a small vessel to bring some of these to some of these islands.

Dr. CLARKSON. Well, I am obviously not an expert in shipping matters, but there are freighters that carry traffic of all kinds throughout the Atlantic. From my observations, I would conclude that they would

take a shipment of 20 or 30 animals anywhere that the owner wanted to have them sent, along with other cargo destined for other ports.

Mr. MAYNE. Well, I am not an expert on ocean traffic either, but it would seem to me that there would be no problem in getting such a shipment to a place like Grosse Ile., but a very considerable problem in getting it to some of the smaller islands that have been discussed.

That is all.

Mr. PURCELL. Any other questions?

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. Chairman, one brief question.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Zwach.

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. Clarkson, you say we would need a strict requirement that in case of an outbreak all animals exposed would be slaughtered; would that mean that all of the animals at this station would need to be slaughtered?

Dr. CLARKSON. Yes; unless there are facilities at this station that would give absolute assurance of isolating one lot of animals from another.

Mr. ZWACH. There is really a lot of danger here. These are high-priced animals. Who will bear the cost?

Will the importer bear the cost if his animal is killed if the disease shows up. Or will the Government? Will we be stuck with this?

What is your recommendation in this area?

Dr. CLARKSON. I should not think that the Government should have to bear that cost.

Mr. ZWACH. You would think that the importer should have the liability that when he has his animal there and there is another one brought in that gives that disease to his animal, that this is his liability?

Dr. CLARKSON. It is one of the recognized hazards in this type of movement.

Mr. ZWACH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Price?

Mr. Sebelius?

Well, now, Dr. Clarkson, in connection with those questions that Mr. Zwach was asking, about the only remedy for stamping out this foot-and-mouth disease is the eradication of animals that are known to have it and those who have been exposed to it; is this not true?

Dr. CLARKSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. So, this is the same procedure that has been used in this country and was used extensively in Mexico in the early 1950's, or the 1940's, or whenever that last outbreak was there?

Dr. CLARKSON. This would be, in miniature, the same kind of procedure that would have to be used for stamping out an outbreak, if it should be allowed to come into this country.

Mr. PURCELL. Yes.

All right. Are there any other questions?

Mr. Rarick?

Mr. RARICK. Doctor, several of these diseases that you have mentioned can be carried by wild animals, can they not, animals such as birds, ducks, and other game birds?

Should an outbreak occur on a nearby island would it not be possible that some wild fowl could contaminate the cattle in the interior with these diseases?

Dr. CLARKSON. Well, I do not recognize any of these diseases as being likely to infect birds. I also recognize that any of them could be carried for short distances by birds as mechanical carriers. I would assume—and certainly insist—that the animals on the quarantine station be protected against any contact with wild birds.

Mr. RARICK. What would you estimate to be a reasonable distance offshore to offer a protective guarantee against the possible spreading of diseases by wild life?

Dr. CLARKSON. Well, I think it is the protective features on the island and its isolation from traffic of the mainland that is important rather than the distance. In the case of birds, the longest distance that I know about that they have been presumed to have transmitted a disease was about 30 miles.

Mr. RARICK. Thirty miles?

Well, we are talking about offshore islands. Some of the islands are coral islands which are really connected to the continental United States. Then there is Staten Island, which could be considered as a quarantine facility—it would qualify as an island but it certainly would not have the isolation feature we are discussing.

Dr. CLARKSON. Well, I would point throughout the Plum Island where, as Dr. Anderson referred to, the laboratory that studies foot-and-mouth disease and a long list of other diseases not known in this country with absolute safety, and it is very close to the mainland of Long Island. It is the facilities and the quarantine procedures that account for more than the distance, in my opinion.

Mr. RARICK. I thank you, Doctor.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. No questions.

Mr. PURCELL. Doctor, I will not get into a discussion—and, in the first place, I could not discuss them if I tried—on all of these diseases. But all of you emphasize rinderpest—and at one time I knew the definition of that, but I have forgotten it—for the record—and maybe I am the only one up here that does not know what it is. But tell us, at least, what that disease is, sir?

Dr. CLARKSON. Rinderpest is a disease primarily of cattle that is caused by a filterable virus. It is very highly fatal. The death rate runs up into the order of 75 or 80 percent in outbreaks that are uncontrolled. There are rather effective vaccines against it that are used in Africa, Asia, where the disease exists regularly. It is not nearly so difficult to diagnose, nor is it so difficult to guard against and the procedures devised by the Department and which were described here by Dr. Anderson a short time ago would, in our opinion, be perfectly acceptable against rinderpest.

Mr. PURCELL. Dr. Clarkson, I want to ask Dr. Anderson, too, but I will ask now:

Do you know whether or not we ever had a quarantine station off in the gulf below either the northern part of Florida or Mississippi or along there somewhere—or Alabama?

Dr. CLARKSON. Yes, sir. In the late 1940's, the Congress authorized, and the Department constructed a facility on Swan Island, which is not too far off the coast of Yucatan, Mexico. This was authorized before the outbreak in Mexico, and it was thought that procedures that were to be put into effect then would be sufficient, but with the ex-

perience gained from the outbreak in Mexico, it was concluded that we did not, at that time, have sufficient knowledge to go forward with it, and the project was abandoned, and the legislation was rescinded.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, as far as you know, that was the only facility that was ever contemplated other than those we already know about?

Dr. CLARKSON. To my knowledge, yes, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. There were not any way back in the early teens or some 40-odd, maybe 40 or 50, years ago that you are aware of?

I do not know either. I am asking.

Dr. CLARKSON. I am not aware of any; no, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. All right. Thank you very much.

Mr. Price?

Mr. PRICE. Is Plum Island at the present time being contemplated to be phased out?

Dr. CLARKSON. Not to my knowledge. I certainly hope not.

Mr. PRICE. Well, I had heard this, and I just wondered if you knew anything about it?

Dr. CLARKSON. I would be greatly surprised and disappointed if it were.

Mr. PURCELL. We can take that up with the Department.

Well, thank you very much, Dr. Clarkson.

Dr. CLARKSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Is Mr. Robert Purdy here at this time?

Mr. Purdy?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT PURDY, REPRESENTING NORTH AMERICAN LIMOUSIN FOUNDATION, DENVER, COLO.; ACCOMPANIED BY RICHARD GOFF, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN LIMOUSIN FOUNDATION

Mr. PURDY. Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Richard Goff, who is the executive vice president of the North American Limousin Foundation.

Mr. PURCELL. We will be very glad to hear from you gentlemen.

Mr. PURDY. I am Robert Purdy, Purdy Ranches, Buffalo, Wyo. I am engaged in the ranching business, and I am presently president of North American Limousin Foundation and a past president of the American International Charolais Association.

The principal point I would like to make in regard to the proposed U.S. quarantine station is that the need for this facility is far greater than most people in our own industry realize.

Cattle from countries where hoof-and-mouth disease and rinderpest are endemic are coming to this country through a similar facility in Canada. Our USDA veterinarians are looking over the shoulders of the Canadian veterinarians. Greater safety would be insured by setting up our own facility. The present minimum quarantine station at Clifton, N.J., is unsatisfactory even for the overtaxed facilities presently being used for testing zoo animals that come from countries where dangerous disease exists such as hoof-and-mouth and rinderpest. American cattlemen are paying millions of dollars to Canadians for these genetically superior cattle, marked up as much as 10 times their cost.

At the present time there are only six Limousin bulls on the North American Continent, all in Canada, whose semen is available to American cattle breeders. The cost of most of the semen from Canadian imported bulls varies from \$6 to \$100 per 1-cc. ampoule of semen. At an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ampoules to breed a cow, it means from \$9 to \$150 per calf just in semen cost, and this is for only one crossbred calf, as there are no purebred Limousin females in the United States. This compares with such domestic semen at \$2.50 to \$4 per ampoule.

The need for increased efficiency in U.S. beef production is critical if the U.S. cattle industry is to survive. This new genetic material is the quickest and best way to increase beef production and be able to maintain reasonable prices to the consumer.

I believe it is entirely possible that if such a facility were made available tomorrow, you would have applications within 48 hours for permits to import at least 500 head of Limousin cattle alone in the first importation.

We urgently solicit your approval for a U.S. quarantine station and assure you that it will benefit the entire beef industry.

In addition to my written statement, Mr. Chairman, I have some other comments I would like to make. It just came to my attention—a new magazine produced by Farm Journal, called *Top Op*. In it is an article entitled "Let's Get That Quarantine Station." It is written by one of their editors, Wayne Palmer. In it, I noticed a statement or a quotation from Senator Hruska, and I quote:

"The Department of Agriculture cannot continue to send American veterinarians to these nations to accompany foreign livestock through all of the elaborate quarantine controls," declares Senator Roman Hruska, Republican of Nebraska. "Nor can we afford to take the risk of not sending veterinarians."

Gentlemen, smuggling has been a threat to our country, and I have only hearsay information. However, I do know of semen that has been smuggled out of France into a neighboring country that is a threat to our country. I feel that if we had a quarantine station of our own the economic need for this would be reduced and consequently the threat of possible smuggling would be much reduced.

I started looking into this in 1962 and first started with Dr. Clarkson who just testified here, and in 1964 I saw the USDA plan for the importation of semen directly from France. To my knowledge, only one shipment has been made which comprised approximately 1,000 vials of semen, at least the amount that was produced in the period of 60 days. This cost \$25,000 just for this one small shipment.

Then, in the fall of 1964, the Canadians announced their program, and, consequently, the program that the USDA had proposed fell apart. It was so much cheaper, and we bought our cattle from the Canadians then.

However, the price that the American cattleman has to pay the Canadian for any of these imported bulls is prohibitive. I was offered a Simmental bull 2 months ago, a purebred Simmental bull, delivered to the United States. The price was \$100,000—just the calf. In addition to that, they wanted semen rights, which would be an additional \$30,000. I just do not happen to have \$130,000 that I am interested in putting into such a project as this, but I am sure that somebody will come along and pay the price.

Gentlemen, I think, very seriously, we need this quarantine station as badly as we need anything. Production and crossbreeding is vital to the American cattlemen.

If there are any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Mr. PURCELL. Any questions?

Mr. Zwach?

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. Purdy, I see you are a past president of the Charolais International Association.

Mr. PURDY. Yes.

Mr. ZWACH. They make pretty good crosses. Are these you are talking about now better, in your opinion?

Mr. PURDY. I would hate to have to get into an argument about which of these are better.

Mr. ZWACH. In your opinion. I am not asking you for an argument.

Mr. PURDY. At this point, sir, I am in it, because of economic reasons. These cattle are all green, so far as I am concerned. I would not want to say that the Simmental or the Limousin or the Charolais—that one is a better animal than the other. It depends entirely on what your program is.

The Simmental, for instance, are well known for their milk production. If your cattle need more milk, Simmental would be a very good animal to introduce into your breed. If you need better marbling facilities and easier calving, Limousin is very good.

Mr. ZWACH. Now, if you were shipping a group into this new facility and they had to be destroyed, you would expect to carry insurance or protect yourself to take this loss?

You would not expect the Government to pay indemnity?

Mr. PURDY. No, sir. I have already imported animals from England through Canada and through Clifton, N.J. I bought the insurance policies that would insure me if any of these animals have to be destroyed. And the permittee would be expected to and would expect to carry this liability.

Mr. ZWACH. You expect that ought to be this way on this new facility, too?

Mr. PURDY. Absolutely; yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Any other questions?

Mr. Mayne?

Mr. MAYNE. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

You say you have imported cattle through Clifton, N.J.?

Mr. PURDY. Yes, sir. They came from the Isle of Man in England. They were progeny of French animals that were originally shipped to England, and the Isle of Man. They were not the original animals; they were progeny of these animals.

Mr. MAYNE. So that was why it was not necessary for them to go through Grosse Ile?

Mr. PURDY. That is correct.

Mr. MAYNE. Thank you.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, Mr. Purdy, we thank you very much. I think your statement was very meaningful to us, and I agree with you completely.

Mr. PURDY. Thank you, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. Do you have anything in the way of a prepared statement, Mr. Goff?

I did not mean to cut you off.

Mr. GOFF. That is quite all right. Mr. Garst called this morning, and due to a cancellation of his flight because of weather, he was not able to be here, and I merely wanted to explain his absence, and he sent his apologies and regrets at not being able to be here.

Mr. PURCELL. If you are in contact with him, you may tell him that we would be glad to file any statement as a part of this record, if he wishes to submit one.

Mr. GOFF. Thank you very much.

Mr. PURCELL. Dr. W. L. Bendix, Secretary-Treasurer, U.S. Animal Health Association of Richmond, Va.

We will be glad to hear from you, Dr. Bendix.

STATEMENT OF DR. W. L. BENDIX, SECRETARY-TREASURER, U.S. ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA.

Dr. BENDIX. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The U.S. Animal Health Association appreciates the opportunity to present its views on this important legislation. This bill touches on a subject that is of vital importance to our Nation and specifically to our association, its interests and objectives. The members of our association include scientists in the Federal Government, scientists in the State governments of all the States, scientists in the research institutions throughout this country and abroad, both private and public, and members of industry. Our association is the forum wherein co-operative programs are developed to control or eliminate serious infectious diseases of our livestock population. Preventing the introduction of foreign or exotic infectious diseases of livestock is, of course, of vital interest also to our membership and to our Nation.

The strains of livestock and poultry already in the United States and available for breeding purposes are certainly the finest anywhere. There is, however, strong demand for new strains commingled with what we already have to bring about specific desired improvements. It is felt that these desired improvements can be brought about more rapidly in our own breeding stock by the introduction of foreign breeds, types, and strains than by limiting ourselves to these accomplishments using only our own. Some of the things the livestock industry apparently is interested in accomplishing would include: (a) beef cattle—an increase in weaning weight, postweaning growth rates, muscularity, decreased carcass waste fat, and improved fertility and calf survival; (b) dairy cattle—an overall increase in milk production per cow, and again improved fertility and survival rates in the young; (c) eventually, sheep—an increase in lambing rate, improved lamb growth rate, muscularity, and a decrease in carcass waste fat; (d) eventually, swine—an increase in prolificacy, muscularity, and improved efficiency of gain.

The U.S. Animal Health Association has not made an independent study of these needs, but we certainly are aware of the feeling, both in industry and in large segments of the scientific community, that the availability of genetic material from certain areas of the world now

denied us could add to the vigor and enhance the efficiency of our native herds and flocks.

In spite of the benefits which may be derived from this type of operation, the importation of new and different animal breeds from foreign countries now denied us must not be done certainly at the risk of introducing diseases not now present in this country. Should this happen, it would not only offset any benefits that we might have derived from the genetic material itself, but it would result in greatly reduced livestock production here at home.

It would appear that if we must satisfy both objectives—that is, provide complete protection against the introduction of foreign animal diseases not now present in this country, and also provide the type of genetic material determined to be necessary from areas of the world now denied us—certainly, the only way we could then accomplish this would be the establishment of an international quarantine station under the direct control of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. We have, to some extent, participated in the development of such a quarantine station operated by the Canadian Government and, under certain protocols developed jointly by our scientists and theirs, this type animal can be brought into the United States after a prolonged sojourn in Canada, following clearance through their quarantine station. This caused grave misgivings at the time it was first developed among many of our States, and it is only fair to say that a great many scientists in this country are not happy with this arrangement.

The U.S. Animal Health Association would greatly prefer that entry continue to be prohibited into this country to animals and animal products from areas of the world where exotic diseases exist that do not presently exist in the United States. During the first third of this century, the United States experienced six outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, one of the most dreaded of the exotic diseases existing in other areas of the world. Large sums of money were necessary to eradicate these outbreaks after the disease had been introduced here. During the second third of the century, we had had no outbreaks of this disease, even in the face of greatly increased international trade and traffic. Serious outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have occurred in Mexico and Canada, and there is evidence to suggest that this disease now exists in the island of Cuba. Continued vigilance by the veterinary staffs of both State and Federal Governments, supported by the action taken by the Congress in 1930 to provide the necessary authority to the Secretary of Agriculture, has accomplished this. It is extremely hard for us to quarrel with success.

We are aware, of course, that with the advancement in knowledge about foot-and-mouth disease and others, and the development of procedures to detect various viruses in carrier animals, particularly cattle, it is possible to devise procedures from the importation of susceptible cattle where foot-and-mouth disease exists without introducing this disease into the North American continent. H.R. 11832, if passed, would provide the basis for such importation. We would like to repeat that we would prefer in this instance to maintain the status quo, but if we are to have an international quarantine station with conditional right of entry for animals and animal products presently refused, then certainly it must be under the exclusive control and authority of our

own Secretary of Agriculture and his scientists. It is in this context that the U.S. Animal Health Association supports this legislation. Others have stated, or will no doubt state, that the establishment of such quarantine facilities with the necessary safeguards will be an extremely expensive undertaking and that the cost of operation also will be high. In discussing this bill with other interested groups, certain specific points developed that we feel deserve serious attention. We are sure that these points will be brought out by others, or perhaps already have been, but we would like to reiterate them in the hope that they will be included in the committee report concerning this bill. These points would include, but not limited to, the following: Dr. Clarkson outlined these five points earlier this morning in discussing this matter, and in discussing this matter with Dr. Clarkson a week ago, or so, we simply wanted to reiterate and support these five points. I will not bother to take the committee's time to read them over.

Mr. Chairman, again on behalf of the U.S. Animal Health Association, I wish to express our appreciation of this opportunity to express our views to you and to the committee.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, thank you very much, Dr. Bendix.

I am sure that I do understand your statement, but to delve into it a little bit, I am sure no one wants to create a situation where any new danger of importing diseases exists; but would you agree that inasmuch as the law now provides, and the practice has developed, that these animals are brought into Canada that—as I think you have stated already you do not believe it would be much better off to have absolute control of quarantine facilities ourselves, with our size industry, that whatever regulations were necessary to promulgate and enforce would be of our doing, and also, from an economic standpoint, you have an adequate control over the management of it as far as the possibility of bootlegging and unfair numbers coming in. I am not implying that there has been any bootlegging in Canada, and I have not ever heard about that, that has to do with health actually, but I have been talked to several times about the fact that animals were being brought in at high, tremendously high, expense to those in this country where this just seems to be clearly an unnecessary thing, impractical, and unfair.

Now, I realize that my question turned out to be a speech, but do you agree or disagree?

Dr. BENDIX. We agree completely, Mr. Chairman, with that point of view. If we are going to have this, then there are compelling reasons why we should certainly seriously consider it must be our own and it must be completely controlled by our secretary.

Mr. PURCELL. Any other questions?

Well, thank you very much, Dr. Bendix.

Our next witness is Mr. Peter S. Thompson, from Easton, Md., who is to be introduced by Congressman Rogers C. B. Morton.

Mr. MAYNE. I am sorry to see that Congressman Morton has shrunk this morning.

STATEMENT OF PETER S. THOMPSON, INDEPENDENT CHAROLAIS BREEDER, EASTON, MD.; ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM O. MILLS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO CONGRESSMAN ROGERS C. B. MORTON

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. Congressman Morton has shrunk a bit. My name is William Mills, administrative assistant to Congressman Morton. It is impossible for him to be here, and I am sitting in his stead.

My purpose is solely to introduce to you a neighbor, business associate, and close personal friend of Congressman Morton.

Mr. Peter S. Thompson is a cattle breeder from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and a gentleman whose knowledge and judgment has the unrestricted confidence of Congressman Morton.

So, at this time, I would like to introduce to you Mr. Peter S. Thompson of Dorsey Farm, Easton, Md.

Mr. PURCELL. We are delighted to have you, Mr. Thompson, and we will be glad to hear your statement at this time.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to appear before the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains.

I am here in the interest of Mr. Purcell's bill, H.R. 11832, to establish an international quarantine station which will permit the safe entry of animals from other countries into the United States.

I am Peter Thompson, and I am a businessman and also a breeder of purebred livestock. As an owner of a herd of Charolais cattle, I sell breeding bulls to the general livestock industry as well as a few animals to other purebred breeders. As a businessman, I share the concern of many as to the plight of the farmer. Over the years we have seen the cost-price squeeze erode the economic position of farmers throughout America. This economic phenomena has caused a drastic change in rural America and has contributed more than is generally recognized to the overpopulation and overcrowding in the cities. As the farmers' profits were reduced relative to the growth of our total national economy, rural America became less a place of opportunity for literally millions of people who subsequently moved to the cities.

In my opinion, Government can help correct this situation but Government will be only one of the factors. The farmer himself is going to have to become a more efficient and well-informed manager.

In the livestock industry the rate of growth of the animal is a vital economic factor. The efficiency of that growth in terms of feed conversion also has tremendous effect on the final profit of a livestock operation. Charolais cattle, and there are other breeds, have been selected over the years on the basis of size, scale, rate of growth, quality of meat, and other factors. Through Charolais cattle, commercial operators have found a way to upgrade the cattle which they sell from their farms and ranches. Second owners have recognized this and are paying a premium for cattle destined for the feed lot which have a substantial amount of Charolais blood.

It is good economics for us to import enough of these cattle, a breed developed primarily in France, in order to satisfy the market demand for quality crossbreeding. These remarks could have been made about other breeds of livestock developed in other parts of the world, which have the potential for contributing substantially to the industry's economic growth. Because of the length of time required in the selection process to develop an improved breed, this country should take every advantage of work done in all parts of the world in the breeding of better livestock.

While citing the utility of and need for greater availability of foreign breeding stock, I by no means wish to deny the importance of protecting the health of the livestock we already have. But I do wish to point out that one of the systems we can use to avail ourselves of the best of both worlds is proper quarantine and careful health management during the entry process of foreign livestock.

If we are going to develop the kind of herds that are required to feed America during the 1980's and 1990's and on into the next century, there will have to be many new elements brought into the livestock industry. It will have to become more efficient; cattle will have to be larger; and yields and conversions will have to be higher. One of the ways we can do this is to take advantage of the worldwide opportunities. It seems to me then, that the proposed quarantine station would be a very healthy investment for the Department of Agriculture in terms of return for the American farmer and the American economy.

I also, Mr. Chairman, represent the American International Charolais Association, and I have been asked by their president, Mr. Clayton Paddock, if I might, to read a letter addressed to Mrs. Christine S. Gallagher, clerk of your committee, stating the position of the A.I.C.A.

(The letter, read by Mr. Thompson, follows:)

AMERICAN-INTERNATIONAL CHAROLAIS ASSOCIATION.

Houston, Tex., November 12, 1969.

MRS. CHRISTINE GALLAGHER,
House Agricultural Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MRS. GALLAGHER: The American-International Charolais Association, the world's fourth largest beef cattle breed with more than 9,000 members, wholeheartedly supports HB-1182 by Congressman Graham Purcell to "provide for the establishment of an offshore international quarantine station and to permit the entry of animals from any country and the subsequent movement of such animals into other parts of the United States for purposes of improving livestock breeds, and for other purposes." This bill will be discussed in a hearing by your committee November 18, 1969, and is identical to Senate Bill S 2306, introduced by Senator Hruska in that body.

This Association for many years has urged the establishment of such a station, and reaffirmed its support and encouragement for such a station at meetings of its board of directors in Kansas City, Missouri, October 17, 1969, and at San Antonio, Texas, February 10, 1969.

Financing of the station *could* be obtained through private subscriptions. Operation of such facility would be on a self-sustaining fee basis, for all practical purposes eliminating government expenditures. Quotas could be established for each breed utilizing the facility.

The annual benefits of such a station to the United States Beef Industry was estimated at \$1 to \$1.5 billion annually in a special study recently made by Dr. R. E. Hodson, director of the Animal Husbandry Division, Agriculture Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, titled "Importation and Evaluation of Exotic Germ Plasm to Improve Livestock". We refer you to this.

This new sperm plasma would widen the genetic base of some classes of livestock now being developed in the United States from an extremely narrow genetic base. Science has demonstrated high potential of crossbreeding to increase reproduction, vigor, growth, and efficiency in production.

Science has further shown that the wider the genetic diversity of the parent stock used in crossbreeding, the greater the benefits from hybrid vigor and the greater the possibility for changing production and the product characteristics.

The report further emphasizes that the use of certain exotic (imported) breeds of livestock can bring about desirable changes in production technologies much faster than the same changes could be achieved within present U.S. breeds through long years of selection.

Your approval of this bill in committee and your active support in obtaining its passage by the House is greatly needed for further expansion of the American Beef Industry, and is urged by this Association. If this Association can be of any assistance in the implementation of this bill, please let us know.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON S. PADDOCK, *President.*

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

Are there questions of Mr. Thompson?

Any questions of Mr. Mills?

He might give us a lecture on the desirability of this improved importation?

If there are no questions, we thank you very much.

Mr. Mills, we appreciate your being here.

Mr. MILLS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. PURCELL. Now, I am going to ask that Dr. Anderson return in just a moment, but now I happen to know that Mr. Jerry Moore, who is active on the Simmental breeders, is here—and Mr. Moore, I will not ask you to testify, but could you give us just a one- or two-sentence statement, please, sir, as to whether or not you know of any opposition or lack of approval of this idea from the Simmental breeders of the United States?

Mr. MOORE. No, sir. Everything we have heard so far we agree with.

Mr. PURCELL. I am not asking you to speak for the association, but to your knowledge those who are interested in the Simmental breed are just as vitally interested as these other witnesses have indicated, the other breeders?

Mr. MOORE. Yes, sir.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a statement also.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you, sir. Your statement will be made a part of the record.

(The prepared statement submitted by Mr. Moore reads in full as follows:)

STATEMENT OF JERRY MOORE, TRUSTEE AND TREASURER, AMERICAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION, ALLIANCE, OHIO

My name is Jerry Moore. I reside on the Moore Ranch, Industry Road, Alliance, Ohio, where I maintain a herd of some 375 brood cows, largely of Hereford breeding. I am also a trustee and treasurer of the American Simmental Association.

My own experience and the observations I have made of cattle operations throughout the country have made me keenly aware of the need for the introduction of new genetic material into the American cattle industry. This is why I am testifying today on behalf of the establishment of a major security livestock quarantine station for the United States.

The income of the American cow-calf operator depends upon three factors: (1) percentage calf crop; (2) weight of the calves at sale time (usually at weaning); and (3) price. The last named factor is determined by general economic conditions as well as the quality of the calves offered for sale. Our big problem as cattle producers is to keep that calf crop high and to have good weights at sale time. Many are finding this increasingly difficult. Selection for beef characteristics alone, to the exclusion of other factors, has severely limited the milk producing ability of the average American beef cow and has depressed the weaning weights of their calves. Fertility is also a matter of some concern among cattlemen who are finding it difficult to maintain a high percentage calf crop.

Consequently, American cattlemen have been eyeing some of the Continental breeds in the hope that those breeds might be able to help them solve these problems. One of these breeds was introduced into this country 20 years or so ago and has been propagated by the use of high percentage crossbred animals until more recently the purebred animals became available. This breed has proven beyond a doubt the value of new blood. Yet, because of stringent import restrictions the prices of these cattle are unreasonably high and the fulltime commercial cattleman can ill afford to avail himself of their potential.

More recently, other Continental breeds of cattle have been introduced into Canada and cattlemen in the United States are using the semen from these bulls in an attempt to breed their cows by means of artificial insemination. This semen is quite expensive, though, and for many of us inexperienced in the technique of artificial insemination the conception rates are uneconomically low. They result in calf crop percentages even poorer than those we are trying to correct.

It seems obvious that the only real solution to the problems contingent upon the current Canadian monopoly of Continental imports, is the construction and operation of a United States quarantine station similar to the one now operated by the Canadians on Grosse Ile, and the one the French are about to open on St. Pierre, Miquon. Such a station would not only enable the American cattleman to obtain the necessary imports but would give the veterinary and sanitary officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture direct control over those imports.

The latter is a most important consideration. These officials are charged with protecting the livestock industry of this nation against the entry of disastrous foreign diseases. Yet under the present setup they must rely primarily upon the activities of officials of foreign governments. Without casting any reflection upon those officials, it is obvious that our people are at a distinct disadvantage in attempting to enforce protective regulations over which their control is secondary.

As an owner of a brood cow herd primarily Hereford in breeding, I am interested in availing myself of the services of purebred Simmental bulls. The indications are that crossbred cows resulting from these bulls would continue to give me cattle of a color pattern highly acceptable to American buyers, while at the same time, significantly increasing the weight and gainability of those calves. There are, I am sure, thousands of American cattlemen who are also of this opinion and who would like to have the opportunity to try such genetic material without having to pay the exorbitant price, in time as well as money, that is now necessary when bringing cattle or semen through Canada.

For this reason I urge this committee to give favorable consideration to this bill for the construction and operation of a United States major livestock quarantine station.

Thank you.

Mr. PURCELL. Now, Dr. Anderson, could you come back to the front, sir, with your staff people?

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT J. ANDERSON; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. EVERETT J. WARWICK AND HAROLD P. CARTER—Resumed

Mr. PURCELL. Now, there are one or two things that I want to ask you and I did not ask you before, but now do you have some suggested or proposed layouts or drawings?

I saw some of you people bring in a long package that looked to me like such a package. Now, was that you or somebody else?

Dr. ANDERSON. That must have been somebody else, Mr. Chairman. We have not developed the drawings to the point that they would be presented at this time.

Mr. PURCELL. All right.

Now, I hope that this is not off the subject here, but it concerns me, Dr. Anderson, that we seem to have spent many years on several diseases and we do not seem to be much better off than we were before.

Now, is there anything you can tell us in regard to the importation or the detection of foot-and-mouth disease in sheep and swine that would lead us to believe that we are close to the development of a method whereby we could safely bring in these animals under the same type circumstances as we now might bring in cattle?

Dr. ANDERSON. Mr. Chairman, we discussed this point with our research people about a month ago. They were not in a position to predict any possible schedule when this might occur. They merely stated that they were optimistic that they would be able to develop test methods that would eventually lead to bringing in these other species with safety. One of the tools that we have that is available for the cattle is called a "probang" test. It is an instrument that draws a sample of mucous and tissue from the throat area or the tonsillar area where the virus of foot-and-mouth disease is most likely to occur in the case of a carrier animal. The test is regarded as an exceptionally good tool in our disagnostic procedures on cattle. But, it is not as accurate and reliable in the case of swine and sheep. We are still confident that they will be able to make a breakthrough within the near future. But until then we just do not believe our diagnostic capability is such that we could afford at this time to allow the entry of sheep and swine from foot-and-mouth countries.

Mr. PURCELL. Now, to your knowledge, has there been any slowdown or cutback in the money available for the continuing study in this particular instance?

Dr. ANDERSON. No, sir; except the small cutback that we all have had to experience because of ceilings on hiring and budget outlay ceilings. The research work is not curtailed any more than any other of our operations as far as funds are concerned. We had hoped that within the next year or so we would be able to expand our research activity at Plum Island to give it a broader diagnostic capability.

Mr. PURCELL. Now, if all of our scientific work in this particular connection carried on at Plum Island in regard to swine, sheep, cattle, in regard to what you keep referring to as exotic diseases—I have been impressed this morning about all these exotic breeds, and we have got exotic diseases. It must be that those in the business do not have any larger vocabulary than I have. You could think of something better to call it than "exotic," but all of the work is carried on at Plum Island in that connection; is that correct?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir; all of our research on foreign animal diseases—that is, those diseases which are not endemic or common to this country—is conducted at our Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory. This includes African swine fever, rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, Rift Valley fever, and numerous other diseases of cattle, sheep, and goats that do not exist in this country.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, at the risk of getting even further off, now, where is our work done in connection with "blue tongue?" I realize that it is an export problem and not an import problem so much.

Dr. ANDERSON. Practically all of our research on blue tongue is conducted at Denver, Colo. We have a research laboratory there that car-

ries out research on blue tongue virus and the vectors of blue tongue virus.

Mr. PURCELL. Who, at your level—does this come under you, or who is in charge of that here in Washington?

Dr. ANDERSON. In Washington, we have a Deputy Administrator for Farm Research who is responsible for several research divisions. One of those divisions is the Animal Disease and Parasite Research Division, and it is responsible for the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory, for the National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, and for the one also at Denver.

Dr. Paul Delay is the division director.

Mr. PURCELL. All right. I will not pursue that further, but this is an area that we must do a lot of work in, it seems to me.

Dr. ANDERSON. I might say that the Department has expanded its efforts in the research on blue tongue for the purpose of trying to develop a diagnostic test that could determine the blue tongue status of an animal, whether it was a carrier or whether or not it was free of the disease. The expansion has been somewhat modest. But, we have expanded our efforts somewhat in that area.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, what I was worried about—and I can only speak for myself, but I think the other members will agree, and you can carry the word back—is that we cannot move too rapidly in that area. I have been impressed with the figures given with regard to the economic benefit in the importing of animals, but I am absolutely convinced that we are depriving ourselves of many millions of dollars of export livestock business per year by not being able to send our cattle to primarily Australia but many other places. They are badly in need of our kind of animals and not these new breeds, particularly. So, I would hope that that would be emphasized.

Now, there were a few questions asked a while ago about the location of the quarantine station. To my knowledge—and I will ask you if you know of one—we just do not have an island that would be convenient to commerce as this island that Canada has. I guess you could say “Staten Island,” that there might be some places like that, but my little bit of research indicates that we just do not have an island at the mouth of a river or an island just a very few miles from an already established port or a center of commerce. Is this your understanding?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir. We have not made a complete survey, but the work that we have done failed to reveal any such island that would be close to the mainland.

Mr. PURCELL. Again, speaking only for myself, I think that there are islands in the Gulf of Mexico that may be under the control of the Interior Department or some other department other than Agriculture that they may have some islands earmarked for seashore development—or no matter what, but I would hope that we could get a very careful analysis of all U.S.-possessed land in the form of an island that is as economically as well as scientifically located, and then let some of us—if it is impossible for the Department itself to use a little influence—see what can be done toward making it available for this, because it can be of economic importance, and it certainly should be done, first, as to the scientific requirements but, second, and very important, as to the economic requirements brought into being for some

of the very facts that Mr. Zwach and, I think, Mr. Mayne and others have brought out. So, we will be glad to work with you, and I will be in touch with you as to the further development of it.

Are there any other questions?

Mr. ZWACH. I have one.

Dr. Anderson, it is true, is it not, that other countries import a great deal of livestock, breeding stock, from America, from the United States?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. So, they have the benefit of our research and know-how. The idea of this bill is to give us the benefit of research in other countries?

Dr. ANDERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. Because we furnish a great deal of it, I am sure, to other countries.

Dr. ANDERSON. That is right. This opens up the whole new avenue of using germ plasm that is not available to our breeders.

Mr. ZWACH. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Any other questions?

All right. Again, thank you, sir.

Mr. Price, one of our own colleagues, a very distinguished man in the field of agriculture, dedicated to his responsibilities, brilliant in his performance, is now available, finally, to be heard.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT D. PRICE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. PRICE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I greatly appreciate being afforded the opportunity to testify before my fellow members on the Livestock and Grains Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

The issue before the subcommittee today is whether or not the United States should establish an international livestock quarantine station. This is an issue I have been interested in for several years; for, prior to being elected to Congress, I spent most of my adult life as a rancher and cattleman in the Texas Panhandle. As a result of this personal experience, I speak with some knowledge on this subject.

My position on the issue is a matter of public record. Early in this session of Congress, I introduced legislation to provide authority for the Department of Agriculture to establish and operate an international quarantine station within the territory of the United States. My bill also permits the movement of animals into the United States which would otherwise be restrained or prohibited from entry under our animal quarantine laws.

Based on my experience, I believe that an international quarantine station would be of great benefit to our livestock industry, an industry which has become a leading component of the agricultural sector of our economy.

The importance of the livestock industry is evidenced by the fact that during the first 6 months of 1969, the livestock industry produced \$13.4 billion in cash receipts of the \$20.5 billion produced by the entire farm sector.

The livestock industry has been a leader in the farm sector for many years. In recent years, however, it has experienced a surge in size and vitality, which has been caused in large part by increased consumer demand for meat of all kinds.

The industry has responded to this stimulus of consumer demand by altering production and initiating innovations designed to provide high quality meat at a reasonable cost to the American consumer.

Producers, in an attempt to improve the competitive position of the industry are constantly striving to improve the quality of their product and lower their costs of production so that both they and the consumer can enjoy a higher return on their dollar. One important means by which the livestock producer is trying to capitalize on his capabilities through experimenting with different animal bloodlines.

Crossbreeding animal bloodlines has become common practice in the American livestock industry. Experience has demonstrated that the products of crossbreeding have a significantly higher capacity for both gain and the production of desirable cuts of meat.

Livestock experts have unequivocally declared that if the hybrid vigor of the American livestock industry were increased, it would have widespread beneficial effects for the industry and the Nation as a whole, in several respects. It is estimated that increased hybrid vigor would boost by three, the number of calves raised per cow bred.

Leaving my testimony for a moment, I understand that one of the nations in Europe has sheep now that produce on an average of three lambs per calving; also that in hogs they have an average litter of 17 pigs compared to ours which is much less.

Returning to my statement. Hybrid vigor would, also, affect sheep and swine in much the same fashion. This is an important increase; increasing the potential production percentage by three would permit a reduction in the present number of beef cows by about 1,200,000 animals without sacrificing current production levels. Inasmuch as annual cow maintenance costs are estimated at \$80 to \$90, this would mean that the 3-percent rise in calf productivity would create a production cost savings amounting to between \$96 million and \$108 million at present production levels.

It is estimated that hybrid vigor also increases the average weaning weight of a calf by about 90 pounds. The economic value of this increase would be realized by virtue of the fact a hybrid calf would gain more pounds of pre- and post-weaning feedlot gains and would require fewer days on feed before reaching market weight. In this connection, the hybrid vigor could possibly increase feedlot gain by one-half to 1 pound per day. Accordingly, feed required per pound of gain would be reduced by about \$7 and the producer would save about 3 weeks time in the feedlot. This would create significant cost savings which could be passed on to the final consumer in the form of lower market prices for meat.

According to USDA figures, yet another projected benefit of hybrid vigor is that it would reduce waste fat on carcasses of finished slaughter animals by 4 pounds per 100 pounds of carcass weight. The economic importance of this reduction can be illustrated as follows: It is currently estimated that waste fat represents 20 percent of carcass weight. Assuming that the 20 million cattle now on feed average 600 pounds per carcass, a reduction of 4 pounds per hundredweight of

carcass equals 24 pounds per head. This savings has two implications: at present levels of production, the amount of edible beef would be increased by about 480 million pounds or around 2½ pounds of beef for every man, woman, or child in the United States. In addition, present levels of production could be maintained with 800-thousand fewer animals.

Mr. Chairman, under present law, livestock producers cannot take full advantage of the many benefits to be derived from crossbreeding because livestock from many countries around the world is excluded from the United States. The Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, contains absolute prohibition against the importation of ruminating animals and swine, except certain wild animals for zoos, and fresh, chilled, or frozen meats of such animals from countries declared by the Department of Agriculture to be infected with hoof-and-mouth disease and other destructive animal diseases and parasites such as African swine fever, rinderpest, exotic ticks, and African horse sickness. As an administrative measure, Federal veterinary officials are assigned to various points of entry to the United States. There, with the assistance of trained inspectors, they inspect animals and animal products, poultry and poultry products, hay, straw, and similar materials that might carry destructive animal diseases into the United States. Those animals and materials that do not pass inspection are refused entry.

While I certainly agree that the Federal Government has the responsibility to see that our Nation is not infected with foreign animal diseases that would endanger our livestock industry and reduce its production, it also has the responsibility not to discharge this obligation in such a fashion that it forecloses a major avenue of improving livestock quality. In my view, the present policy of the Federal Government prohibits, as a practical matter, the full use and benefit of crossbreed experimentation. This condition is not a beneficial one; both the consumer and the producer suffer. I believe that the much needed balance between disease protection and livestock improvement can be best achieved by the Federal Government's establishing an adequate international quarantine station on an offshore island where the U.S. Department of Agriculture can effect maximum security precautions to prevent diseased animals and materials from entering the country.

Faced with the rigid prohibitions of the Tariff Act, livestock producers have tried to create hybrid vigor and provide better beef and dairy products at a lower cost to the American consumer by experimenting with our domestic livestock genetic base. They have been hampered in their efforts, however, because the genetic base of many classes of our livestock is rooted in only a few of the many breeds of the world. In fact, in some cases, our present breeds are based on the relatively few strains of animals that were imported from Northern Europe some 60 to 80 years ago.

The Federal Government has not been entirely blind to the production needs of the livestock industry. In an effort to facilitate the efforts of livestock producers, the Agriculture Department issued regulations in 1965 that would permit, under very stringent restrictions, the importation of animal semen from certain countries declared to be infected with destructive animal diseases or pests. To date, these regulations have only been utilized once; although, currently, the Depart-

ment is reviewing two other inquiries about the importation of bull semen from countries adjudged infected with hoof-and-mouth disease.

According to livestock producers, more requests for the importation of animal semen have not been submitted to the Department of Agriculture because of the disadvantages attendant to the practice. The most important disadvantage seems to be that semen imports do not permit the establishment of a purebred nucleus for future breed expansion. Since the importer can obtain only the male side of the genetic strain, he has to continue repeated importations of animal semen in order to maintain his hybrid experiments. In addition, potential importers have complained that the importation of semen is excessively costly in relation to the benefits received; consequently, it is difficult for any but the largest producers to profit from such imports.

Since the middle sixties, livestock producers, in an effort to import live animals from foreign countries which are considered unsafe under the Tariff Act, have looked to Canada for a source of live animal supply. Canada operates two international animal quarantine stations. When animals are imported into Canada from countries that are infested with destructive animal diseases or pests, they must pass through strict quarantine procedures. The effectiveness of these procedures is attested to by the fact that no animal carrying hoof-and-mouth disease has ever been released from either of the two Canadian quarantine facilities.

Canada has proved to be a recent source of bull semen for American livestock producers. In addition, a few of the animals themselves have been imported into the United States from Canada, but only after being subjected to rigorous export controls. Canada requires its exporters to obtain an export permit, a permit which only covers a limited number of specified animal breeds. Within these breeds, export privileges have only been granted for male animals, never for females. Canada makes this distinction for the obvious reason that it wants to protect its monopoly position with regard to the importation of foreign livestock.

From the American livestock producer's point of view, the disadvantages to relying on foreign beef imported from Canada is threefold:

(1) American producers are confined to bidding on Canadian surplus livestock. If there is no surplus above Canadian domestic needs, American producers go begging.

(2) Since the Canadian exports are limited to live female animals, American producers cannot establish a purebred nucleus for future breed expansion, without importing the necessary semen from Canada.

(3) The cost of obtaining foreign animals from Canada is prohibitive. It has been estimated that it costs at least \$5,000 per head to buy livestock declared safe by the Canadian Government.

In looking at this situation from the national interest point of view, it seems to me that American reliance on foreign livestock imported from Canada has certain disadvantages. The initial one is that since many animals are imported from Canada, it would be desirable if the United States controlled the importation and quarantine apparatus. As it stands now, the Department of Agriculture sends American veterinarians to meet any livestock shipments from foreign lands to Canada which would ultimately be purchased by U.S. producers.

This, the Department concedes, is an expensive and burdensome procedure.

The same disadvantages also apply to our running checks of other countries such as Argentina, France, Germany, and Italy, who are seeking to establish quarantine stations for the purpose of shipping livestock into this country.

In my view, if the United States were to establish an adequate international livestock quarantine station of its own, it would solve in large measure the problems and needs that the livestock producer experiences in regard to the importation of foreign livestock.

The establishment of an adequate international livestock quarantine station would also give rise to other desirable conditions. Livestock producers would be able to import and critically evaluate selected foreign breeds not now present in the United States for their ability to improve livestock productivity and livestock quality. In addition, since the facility would be a Federal one, the Department of Agriculture could conduct research in the area of hybrid vigor and publish a running account of its research for the use and benefit of the livestock industry. The Department can also establish an ongoing system for the importation by private industry of larger numbers of breeds or types of livestock that are found to have significant potential usefulness in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is absolutely essential for the United States to establish an adequate international livestock quarantine station if the livestock industry is going to meet the rising demand for meat caused by our rapidly growing population. The Bureau of the Census estimates that by the year 2000, which is not long off, we will have 100 million more people in this country than we have today. By the year 2015, our population will be increased by yet another 100 million people. This will place a tremendous strain on the productive capabilities and adequacies of our domestic livestock industry. For example, Government experts have estimated that if the cattle industry is to meet consumer demand in the year 2000, the industry will have to produce calves that will have a weaning weight of between 600 and 700 pounds, as compared to the 300 to 400 pounds weaning weight that calves presently have under normal conditions.

I might add at this point that in Colorado there is a breed of cattle now, and this man here has records where he has weaned calves between 600 and 700 pounds.

The livestock industry can meet the challenges of the future only by the full use and benefit of hybrid vigor. This in turn necessitates the establishment of an adequate American international livestock quarantine station. Through the activities, the research, and the experiments of such a facility, every American will be able to enjoy a greater variety of high-quality livestock products at a reasonable cost in the future.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you very much, Mr. Price. I think this has been a very meaningful statement and shows a lot of research work on your part.

You have really gone into this, and your thoughts on this, I am sure, will have a great effect on the subcommittee.

Do you have some questions?

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend my colleague from Texas for his presentation and also for his hard work for the benefit of agriculture and countryside America.

Mr. PRICE. Thank you very much.

Mr. PURCELL. This concludes the witnesses that were scheduled to appear today. The subcommittee will stand in recess now and meet at 10 o'clock in the morning to continue hearing testimony on these bills.

We will now be recessed until 10 o'clock in the morning.

(Whereupon, at 11:50 a.m., a recess was taken until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 19, 1969.)

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUARANTINE STATION TO PERMIT ENTRY OF ANIMALS TO IMPROVE LIVE- STOCK BREEDS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1969

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10:10 a.m., in room 1301, Longworth House Office Building, the Honorable Graham Purcell (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Purcell, Montgomery, Jones of North Carolina, Melcher, Mayne, Zwach, and Sebelius.

Also present: Christine Gallagher, clerk, and Hyde H. Murray, associate counsel.

Mr. PURCELL. The subcommittee will come to order.

This morning, we have the pleasure of having a man that is very knowledgeable and always makes a real contribution to our meetings, Mr. Bill McMillan of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

Mr. McMillan, we will hear you now.

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF C. W. McMILLAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, DENVER, COLO.

Mr. McMILLAN. The American National Cattlemen's Association sincerely appreciates this opportunity to appear before the committee and endorse enactment of H.R. 11832 which provides for the establishment of an international livestock quarantine station by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Some years ago, our association looked with disfavor upon the establishment of a similar quarantine station in Canada. Our fears were based entirely upon the dread that foot-and-mouth disease would gain entry into the United States. After long and serious discussions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists, assurances were given that testing techniques had been developed to the point where, if properly followed, any latent foot-and-mouth virus in any animal originating from a country known to be infected with the disease could be detected.

Since that time, the project has been successful and animals have been brought into the North American Continent without foot-and-mouth disease having been discovered. However, this does not lessen our

association's concern that every possible means should be employed to prevent foot-and-mouth disease from gaining entry into the United States or any spot on the North American Continent.

There is a demand for the entry of new germ plasm so that the beef cattle herds of the United States can continue to be improved, thus assuring the consuming public of a constant supply of high-quality, wholesome beef for the years to come. Research has demonstrated that a great potential exists for crossbreeding which can increase the vigor, growth, and in many cases the efficiency of cattle production. Coupled with this, has been a desire that wider genetic diversity of the parent stock be available in order that hybrid vigor can be developed.

The Canadian cattlemen, of course, recognize this same thing. As a consequence, they are not permitting live animals to be shipped to the United States through their quarantine facilities. This opens the door for subterfuge and possible circumvention of the quarantine laws. Cattle might even be smuggled into the United States, thus creating an even greater danger of foot-and-mouth infestation because no quarantine would have taken place.

Because there is no apparent need for new germ plasm in the United States, and because we feel that the germ plasm should be brought in under the most stringent quarantine and sanitary conditions, we feel a strong need for a U.S. quarantine station to be built. With the location of such an "International Quarantine Station" as proposed by the Department of Agriculture in the Caribbean, we feel that the proper conditions can be maintained, thus preserving the foot-and-mouth disease-free status of the United States.

There could be economies associated with our own quarantine station as well. The Department of Agriculture currently has to send American veterinarians to those nations and accompany these foreign livestock through all of the elaborate quarantine controls. This is necessary because the USDA cannot afford the risk of not sending veterinarians to see that every precautionary procedure is followed. Obviously, the more countries that seek to do this, the greater the expense to the American government, and the more difficult it is to supervise the increasingly diverse systems of quarantine control of other nations. Similar problems exist in the case of zoo animals coming into the United States.

In summary, because the quarantine procedures will be under the control of our own scientists, the likelihood of foot-and-mouth disease gaining entry into the United States through such an "International Quarantine Station" will be very minimal. The potential benefits to our livestock industry and to the consumers of the United States certainly justify such a station. **The fees to be charged for the use of the station by those importing the animals will make it largely self-sustaining.** Consequently, there would be little cost to the taxpayers of the United States.

The American National Cattlemen's Association respectfully requests early action on H.R. 11832 so that we might move forward on this very important project.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I will be happy to try to answer any questions that members of the Committee may have.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Mayne, do you have any questions?

Mr. MAYNE. Mr. McMillan, I notice in your statement you seem to assume that this would be someplace in the Caribbean; is that correct?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. MAYNE. I am a little concerned about having it that distance from the continental limits of the United States that it is going to be unnecessarily expensive. As you know, the Canadians have theirs just outside of their principal city, Montreal.

From what I have seen down in the Caribbean, it is quite an expensive operation in transporting various Government officials down there, and, of course, we have to have congressional inspection teams, too, and the total cost—and the cost to the interested citizen who wants to see it or potential cattleman who may be interested in this, it is going to be a lot more expensive for him to go down there, too. Is your organization wedded to the idea of it being located in the Caribbean rather than somewhere closer to the action?

Mr. McMILLAN. No, Mr. Mayne. We are interested in the most practical location—obviously practical from the standpoint of economy, but more so to maintain the most stringent quarantine conditions. In discussions that I have had with Department of Agricultural officials and other representatives of our organization, the matter of the Caribbean has been the one most frequently discussed by the USDA scientists. However, we will abide by the wishes of the scientists and where they feel they can maintain the best quarantine conditions.

Mr. MAYNE. Thank you.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Montgomery, do you have any questions?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch on the costs to the Agriculture Department and also to the cattlemen.

Will the cattlemen, under this bill, in your judgment, have to pay for part of this expense to quarantine the cattle and clear them?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir, although the mechanics have not as yet been fully worked out. I think what they are proposing is something similar to the procedures that are followed in Canada. The costs for feeding, and maintaining the animals while in quarantine are borne by those who are bringing the animals into the country.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. I think someone testified yesterday, Mr. Chairman, that it would be quite expensive, quite an expensive project, but they still thought it was worthwhile.

Maybe the chairman—or maybe the witness could give us a cost figure?

I know if you buy an island, you are really talking about a lot of money, and I wonder if anybody has put any thought on the cost of this project?

Mr. PURCELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Yes.

Mr. PURCELL. I do not believe I have the statement of the Department witness who appeared yesterday before me, but I think—I am just trying to remember—he testified it would be about a million and a half a year. But, as far as obtaining the property, the hope would be that they would be able to locate an island that the U.S. Government already owns.

Now, the testimony yesterday—I do remember—was that about \$2.5-million would be the original and non-recurring cost. That would be—

the bill. Here it is. \$1.3 million annually. I do not think that any of us tried to go into detail to ascertain what the \$1.3 million goes for, but I would assume maintenance, the payment of personnel, and the normal administrative costs that are associated with such a venture.

I would think—hopefully—that the procurement cost could be handled by taking an island or part of an island that the Government already has; and that is the indication that I have.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Well, I thank the chairman.

That, basically, answers the question.

Does the witness care to comment further?

Mr. McMILLAN. No, unfortunately, I was not here yesterday and did not hear the Department's testimony, so, I am somewhat in the dark and becoming enlightened as much as you are, Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. I have no further questions.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Zwach?

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. McMillan, first I would like to ask this question of you:

You do believe, do you not, that the American cattlemen and research have done a terrific job of developing the efficiency and the vitality of the cattle industry in our country?

Mr. McMILLAN. By all means, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. That the consumers have benefited tremendously by this development?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. Secondly, we have exported, exported to other countries, our great know-how and development in these areas?

Mr. McMILLAN. This has happened in the past; it certainly has.

Mr. ZWACH. Now, the idea of this legislation is in reverse, giving us some of the benefits of what some of the other nations are doing which, in a sense, we have not been able to do fully?

Mr. McMILLAN. Because of the limitations on these new germ plasmas coming into the United States, yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. That is really what is involved here?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. It is certainly no condemnation of what the American cattlemen have done in all of these areas?

Mr. McMILLAN. By no means. To the contrary, because here we are attempting to develop even further efficiencies and improvements in cattle production.

Mr. ZWACH. What is the name of your national publication?

Mr. McMILLAN. "American Beef Producer."

Mr. ZWACH. You wrote an editorial in the last issue of that paper regarding beef and beef importation and the little slip that is put on every menu with regard to a 75-cent plate increase because of the high cost of beef.

Mr. McMILLAN. This was an editorial written by our president, Bill House; yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. I want to commend you for that editorial because it hits the nail right on the head.

By the way, I hope to insert that into the Congressional Record so that several hundred thousand people may see that editorial. I think it indicates that it is foreigners who are, in a sense, forming the policy and the thinking with regard to our industry in this country.

Mr. McMILLAN. Your comments are very much appreciated, Mr. Zwach. I will certainly convey that word to our president. I know he will be delighted as well.

Mr. ZWACH. Well, I think it is a very commendable article. I just had a letter from one of my alert constituents who went to a hotel in Minneapolis, in one of the fine restaurants, and there was that clip-on slip, and so she called the manager, and asked: "Why do you put this on and blame beef for all of your increase in costs?"

"Well," he said, "this came in from somewhere in the East."

So, you see, that dovetails with the editorial that you have written.

Mr. McMILLAN. It does. I can assure you that we were pretty upset about the menu clip-ons. We have written a number of letters to such people as the Hilton and the Sheraton chains and others who were doing nothing more than just spotlighting the fact that beef prices had risen.

We asked them the question:

"When you have labor cost increases, do you spotlight it by a similar menu clip-on?" Obviously, we got a negative reply.

We resented these clip-ons, so your comments are deeply appreciated, Mr. Zwach.

Mr. ZWACH. You state that there are sort of open invitations to violate the quarantine laws through the present Canadian indirect set-up.

Do you know of any violations of the quarantine law?

Mr. McMILLAN. No, sir; we do not. We do know that with the demand for the new germ plasm, we do not have the facilities, and if there is not sufficient volume permitted through the Canadian system, this, very possibly, could open the door to violations. This is what we want to prevent.

Mr. ZWACH. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Melcher, do you have questions?

Mr. MELCHER. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman, but I want to compliment Bill McMillan and the American National Cattlemen's Association for his excellent and constructive testimony. I might say for myself that I do not think we can ever afford to just stand still in the beef industry. We have to keep up with the times. At the same time, we must safeguard ourselves against hoof-and-mouth and rinderpest and other diseases that we do not have here in the United States. We want to make darn sure that we never do have.

I think the testimony is excellent, and I am glad to have had Mr. McMillan with us this morning.

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, Mr. Melcher.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Sebelius?

Mr. SEBELIUS. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McMillan, I do not receive your magazine that Brother Zwach just referred to here. Will you be kind enough to tell Bill House that his Kansas member of the Agriculture Committee would like to subscribe to it and be glad to pay for it.

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Sebelius, we will see that you begin to receive it, compliments of the Association.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Thank you.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. McMillan, to touch on what I think is a related problem—the exporting of animals—I feel that we have not put enough importance on the development of knowledge and the way to control or eliminate blue tongue, and other diseases that damage U.S. exports.

Would it be your feeling that we should continue research, development, whatever is required, to learn more about some of the diseases we have, in order that we can begin more effectively to export breeding cattle to other countries?

Mr. McMILLAN. I concur 100 per cent with you, Mr. Chairman. You mention the disease, blue tongue, and that is probably the principal disease which does limit the exportation of breeding stock from the United States to countries such as New Zealand or Australia and makes for severe limitations to even some of the South American countries such as Brazil.

It so happens that the Blue Tongue Laboratory is located in Denver. We have rather frequent contact with the personnel that man this very important station. It is inadequately staffed, and there is inadequate room to really carry out the right kind of research to find solutions to blue tongue problems. We have been in support of the Department of Agriculture in attempting to get additional appropriations so that this research can be stepped up.

Mr. PURCELL. Well, I had in mind asking you if we could solicit your organization's support, maybe, in helping this committee in getting more importance placed on it, but maybe I had better reverse that and say that we would like to help you get more importance placed on this work, and, maybe, working together in the future—not that we have not been working together, but bearing down more—pointing out the importance of it, possibly getting more funding, or more of whatever might be needed. All of this would be very difficult but I appreciate your comments very much.

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PURCELL. Are there any other questions or comments?

Mr. ZWACH. Mr. Chairman, we have Mr. McMillan and we have Dr. Melcher.

I wonder if we could have a capsule statement of what blue tongue is?

Mr. McMILLAN. Well, I would think that Dr. Melcher would be much better qualified than I.

Mr. PURCELL. I was hoping that Mr. McMillan might try and we would just see how much he does know.

Mr. McMILLAN. I will try. Basically, it is a disease of sheep and the terminology, "blue tongue", the result is just about that way. The mouth area, the tongue, the lips, and so forth, become extremely irritated, and they are unable to eat and become quite gaunt. In some cases they do not get enough to eat and die. Until recently, it has been thought that cattle were only carriers of blue tongue, but this laboratory in Denver to which I referred has shown that cattle themselves can contract the disease, although they are not nearly as susceptible as sheep.

Now, with that lay approach to things, perhaps, Dr. Melcher would wish to expand.

Mr. ZWACH. Are we making headway on it?

Are we getting equipped?

Mr. McMILLAN. Well, the problem is, Mr. Zwach, that there has been insufficient funds to go ahead in the research to the extent we feel is necessary to get the disease whipped.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that Bill has done a good job in explaining the relationship between sheep and cattle. We do not recognize blue tongue as much of a health threat, in this country, to cattle. However, it is necessary to have more research on it, because we do not know the interplay between sheep and cattle in the disease. We are skeptical; we are suspicious, I probably should say, that under certain circumstances it could be a threat to cattle. I happened to be involved as a practicing veterinarian in the operation with blue tongue of sheep in Carter County in Montana about 10 or 12 years ago. There is a vaccine available for sheep, and we used it extensively at that time, and it can bring the outbreak under control quite quickly. The most damaging thing that happened to the people in that area of Montana at that time was due to it being highly contagious. There were a lot of the animals that became sick at one time because of its rapid spread. Very few died. Some did, but because of so many of the flock being sick at one time, it was most damaging because of loss of weight and loss of ability to sell the lambs for breeding use, or for whatever purpose you would want to sell them, at that particular time.

Mr. ZWACH. Doctor, if the blue tongue cattle are shipped into, say, Australia, are they a threat to the sheep industry in Australia?

Mr. MELCHER. We are not sure.

Mr. ZWACH. I see.

Mr. MELCHER. I am not sure, anyway; and I do not think that anybody is too sure, except there is some interplay, and we do not realize the extent of the interplay.

Mr. McMILLAN. However, on that very point, the Australians do maintain an embargo against breeding cattle going into Australia.

Mr. ZWACH. Because of this reason?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes; because of the fear that blue tongue could be carried there.

Mr. PURCELL. Let me just add that the sheep industry being so terribly important to Australia and to New Zealand, they have taken the same attitude toward this disease as we have toward foot-and-mouth disease, and rather than to flirt with the possibility, they have placed an absolute embargo. Therefore we are not at this time sending any breeding cattle in there. They are badly in need of hundreds or thousands, apparently, of the kind of breeding cattle that we can furnish.

Mr. ZWACH. I want to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this out.

Mr. PURCELL. We just need to do something. And our scientists do not know, of course, at this point, what to do. We have gotten some cattle into Brazil, and they have accepted, as a rule, that cattle coming from east of the Mississippi they will take under some circumstances, but it is a danger, and this is a flimsy way to go at it, because we have no way of knowing whether the cattle are coming from west of the Mississippi before they are shipped.

I have no further comments on that.

Mr. MELCHER. I might add this one more point, Mr. Chairman: Our cattle would do a great deal to the improvement of Australia's cattle.

We have much more advanced beef cattle than they have, and there should be a widespread demand over there for breeding cattle from our country. But, however, we are prevented from doing that on this basis.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Jones, do you have any comments?

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. No, sir.

(The subcommittee also received for the record the following statement, letters, and telegram:)

STATEMENT OF HON. BILL CHAPPELL, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 11832 is a bill in which my constituents in the Fourth District of Florida are most interested. This section of Florida, where livestock farms abound, is extremely anxious to upgrade its stock of beef and introduce new breeds of horses.

For many years we have had restrictions on importing additional breeds of animals for improving the stock. The United States has a very limited genetic base of livestock and needs to broaden this base to gain increased growth and production efficiency.

Now, under provisions of this proposed bill, quarantine safeguards are included which will make the importations safe insofar as spreading animal diseases and feasible when one considers the potential benefit to the market.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity of making this statement in behalf of H.R. 11832 and I am hopeful the Committee will consider this bill favorably.

Castroville, Tex., October 18, 1969.

HON. W. R. POAGE,
Rayburn Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. POAGE: As cattle breeders and individuals dependent upon progressive cattle improvement for our income we would like to state our reasons for desiring the importation of Simmental cattle or a corollary breed (theoretically the same breed with a different name in various countries) from Switzerland, West Germany, or France.

As the emphasis on beef cattle improvement shifts towards faster, more efficient gains, better cut-out value with more lean meat and less fat per unit of production, U.S. beef breeders are taking dead aim on the factors that contribute towards these goals. These factors are recognized as: 1) superior muscling qualities and beef conformation, 2) mother cows with high milk production, 3) good fertility in bulls and cows, 4) inherent factors for rapid growth, 5) consolidated hereditary characteristics that give the hybrid vigor so necessary for modern economic cross-breeding.

The importance of performance and production records have been generally recognized for a number of years. However, the mass of beef producers in this country have been slow to accept and adopt meaningful record keeping systems as a part of their operations. Therefore, the percentage of cattle in the U.S. that are thoroughly performance or production tested are in a serious minority as far as being a factor for rapidly influencing the improvement of the considerable number of U.S. cattle herds.

In Europe, because land values are very high, each animal kept as a brood cow or herd sire *must produce*. Consequently, the Swiss and W. German breeders have established programs and standards that assist them in finding the top animals for herd replacements. A program has been in effect for over 60 years in which only those cattle meeting certain standards of production and points of conformation are eligible for registration.

This rigid selection in the Simmental cattle, Europe's most numerous breed, places them in a prominent position among the world's cattle population.

The combination of high milk production (in Europe the Simmental is also used for dairy purposes) in a beef animal is seemingly an answer to the cross-breeding dreams of U.S. cattlemen who have long felt the need for increased milk production, while maintaining rapid growth rates in their commercial beef programs.

The systematic improvement of the Simmental breed, based on proven and consolidated lines, and on careful individual selection for type and productivity, has made it possible to reach a high degree of uniformity and security in the transmission of hereditary characteristics.

The consolidation of these hereditary characteristics practically guarantees the transmission of these inherent abilities in a prepotent way. For this reason, the breed is chosen in many regions of the world for crossbreeding programs.

Unquestionably, Simmental crossbred cows, regardless of the percentage of blood, are going to contribute immeasurably to the beef industry of the United States.

At the present time however, the only way U.S. breeders can obtain this new genetic material is through artificial insemination with semen collected from the few Simmental bulls that have been imported into Canada. This is a slow and somewhat ineffective way to bring about the much needed benefit our cattle herds need. Also, there has been some question regarding the discretion used in selection by the importers of bulls now in Canada.

European countries are annually importing numerous quantities of livestock from the United States with, what they feel, is a possible danger of re-introducing Bangs and T.B. into their countries. They feel that there should be some type of reciprocal program in which they could export to the U.S.

Certainly, we do not want to endanger our herds to Hoof and Mouth Disease, but it is our feeling that a concentrated effort is needed on the part of our government to work out a program in which adequate quarantine procedures could be established to safely allow entry of Simmental cattle and other European breeds into the United States.

It is our understanding that we are presently restricted by an antiquated 1930 law. We feel that it is time that this law is either revised or amended so that the problem may be approached in a workable manner.

Canada and its citizens have reaped a multi-million dollar dividend from U.S. livestock producers in the past three years by allowing liberal importations and by setting up adequate quarantine stations. In addition, by restricting the subsequent exportation of female cattle into the U.S., they have captured many American dollars as U.S. cattlemen have established ranches in Canada, have purchased vast quantities of bull semen from Canadian sources, and have purchased many cattle contributing to Canadian profits.

In view of the foregoing, we urge you to take an interest and give support to the liberalization of American importation laws and/or the setting up of quarantine stations in which healthy animals may be cleared for importation. We believe that this matter is of prime importance to the future economy of a large segment of our American beef industry.

Sincerely,

M. W. SHARP, D.V.M.

FITZHUGH-STRAUS MEDINA HEREFORD RANCH,
San Antonio, Tex., October 23, 1969.

HON. GRAHAM PURCELL,
House Agriculture Committee,
Congress of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. PURCELL: In view of the importance of the Twenty Billion Dollar beef cattle production in the United States, we wholeheartedly endorse the proposed establishment of a livestock quarantine station off the coast of the United States. It is also our opinion that the quarantine law of 1930 should be amended, or revised, to make it more flexible, whereby it would permit the breeders of the United States to import improved breeds of beef cattle, or livestock, into the United States.

We ranchers realize that we have enjoyed a gradual increase in demand for our products. We also anticipate this demand will continue for years to come. It is estimated that this year in the United States, our capital consumption of beef will be from 108 to 110 pounds per person. With our population increasing each year, not only in the United States, but entire world, we are going to witness a gradual increasing demand for our beef.

We do not have any more land available for cattle production, therefore, we must perfect ways and means whereby we can produce more beef per acre than we are now producing. This will necessitate a more efficient production. Expe-

rience and experimental station data has proved that one of the best and most efficient ways to increase beef production is by crossbreeding. It has been proved, without doubt, when we cross two or more superior breeds, one will increase his beef cattle production ten to twenty per cent annually. Beef cattle producers in the United States today are making many changes in their operations so they can meet present day competition.

More emphasis is being placed today on breeding beef cattle that will produce more red meat and less fat and, also an animal, who will make a faster and more efficient gain. We are striving to select breeding herds that will possess the following breeding traits:

- (1) Inherit factors for rapid growth;
- (2) Superior fertility among bulls and cows;
- (3) Select cattle with outstanding beef conformation that will possess superior muscling qualities; and
- (4) Cows with higher milk production.

All of these factors are very important.

It has been our observation that there are several superior breeds of beef cattle, or dual purpose cattle, in Europe that would certainly be highly important to our crossbreeding program in the United States. But the breeders in the United States are certainly at a disadvantage today since it is impossible for us to import these cattle to the United States. The only place we can get these cattle, and that is semen only, is through Canada. Canada is receiving many millions of dollars each year from breeders of the United States for semen and, also, many millions of United States Dollars have been invested in Canada for ranch land where they can produce cattle from European countries.

We sincerely urge that you support a change in our American Import Law of 1930, giving discretionary power to the Department of Agriculture and, also, the establishment of an adequate quarantine station.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. FITZHUGH.
J. R. STRAUS, Sr.

AMERICAN YORKSHIRE CLUB, INC.,
Lafayette, Ind., November 14, 1969.

Congressman GRAHAM PURCELL,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PURCELL: Thanks for your letter of the 6th of November in regard to the hearings on your quarantine bill which are scheduled for November 18th and 19th. I am sorry for the delay in answering but I just returned last evening the 13th from a trip to England, Scotland, Germany and Holland where I visited several livestock shows and several universities in regard to swine research work.

I regret very much that my schedule is filled up until after the 19th, but if there is any postponement on this hearing I would appreciate being advised and maybe I can fit it into my schedule. I am taking the liberty to make some statements in support of your bill H.B. 11832.

There are individuals in many breeds of livestock and species in the world, if used in the breeding programs of our breeds of livestock, they could be a tremendous help in improving breeds of livestock in the United States.

Relatively few animals of any breed contribute to breed improvement, but it is very necessary that when you find the right one to be able to use it to help improve foundation breeding stock. Purebred breeders do a lot of line breeding and inbreeding to help improve their uniformity and standardize conformation and production of animals. However, in time a suitable outcross becomes necessary to offset some of the unfavorable things that breeders run into in too much line breeding and inbreeding. Weaknesses and some heritable defects crop up after a intensive program of inbreeding or line breeding is used in many cases. Here again is where a outcross is very helpful.

Canada and other countries are using quarantine stations to help them improve their livestock. There is no reason why the United States should be behind these other countries. H.R. 11832 would help U.S.A. livestock breeders keep pace with its competition.

I appreciate the desire of our U.S.D.A. people to stay away from livestock diseases, but some of these countries such as Canada have had less livestock

disease than we, and have been far more aggressive in their breeding program through quarantine stations than we in this country.

Recently, several breeds of cattle have been introduced and others improved in the United States, but these breeds could have done a better job had we had our own quarantine stations. There are superior lines of breeds still available in many places in the world that have not been brought in as yet.

The swine industry and sheep breeders have not been able to compete on the same basis with cattle people because of the lack of a blood test being developed for these two species to check against for the possibility of foot and mouth. The people in the division of animal health should have been looking further ahead and given the sheep and swine people the same opportunity that has been afforded the cattle breeders. I understand that they are working on it at the present time, but it is hard to tell when a test will be available. This has certainly put the swine and sheep breeder at a disadvantage with this competition in the production of red meats.

The board of directors of the American Yorkshire Club and its members wholeheartedly support H. R. 11832 and hope that this bill receives a favorable recommendation from the committee hearings. It could be a progressive step in helping breed better livestock in the United States.

You are quite right that a quarantine station would have helped a great deal in our problem with the boar and sow in Canada from Scotland. This boar and sow can go anywhere in Canada today. Canada was free of hog cholera long before us, and has had less livestock disease than we. The department has maintained that Scotland is a part of Great Britain. They have not had any foot and mouth in Scotland and the Canadian Government recognizes this fact. Our livestock authorities have been aware of this past record as well as I, or Canada.

Sincerely yours,

WILBUR PLAGER.

P.S.—I will be at a meeting on Tuesday evening the 18th, at Toronto, Canada, and might be possible for me to fly to Washington D.C., for the 19th.

W. L. P.

SALEM, OREG., *November 17, 1969.*

HON. GRAHAM PURCELL,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Supervised import facilities urgently needed. Maintain vitality U.S. purebred industry. Adopt H.R. 11832.

OREGON SHEEP ADVISORY COUNCIL,
DOUG SCHAMBERS, *Chairman.*

Mr. PURCELL. If there is nothing further, we thank you very much, Mr. McMillan, and we will excuse you; and the subcommittee will go into executive session.

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Whereupon, at 10:35 a.m., the subcommittee retired into executive session.)

○

