

Among the suggestions made to the Committee, sometimes as a sole solution to the problems of the industry but most frequently as a component of a many faceted solution, was the regulation of the importation of beef and veal into Canada. As the effects of Canada's trade laws on the achievement of stability in the beef industry was one of the specific areas into which the Committee had decided to inquire, these suggestions were most welcome. It was not the intention of the Committee to make a special or interim report on this subject but subsequent events have created a situation in which it seems desirable for the Committee to do so.

The most important of these events was the discussions which the Committee had with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean Chretien, on 16 June 1977. When asked by Senator Molgat whether it was the Government's intention to continue with the quota arrangements after their termination on 31 December 1977, the Minister replied: "I do not know what we will do next year. We will determine the situation in the fall and then decide."

At this point, it was clear to the Committee that the federal government had not yet decided to implement a consistent long-term policy concerning the importation of beef and veal into Canada. Thus, the autumn was to be a time of evaluation and decision, an appropriate time indeed, for the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture to place before the Senate, the government and the beef producers its conclusions and recommendations concerning the "effects of Canada's trade laws on the achievement of stability in the industry."

In its assessment of Canada's position in international beef trade, the Committee formulated six basic principles which it has decided to follow in the formulation of a long-term import policy for beef, veal and live slaughter cattle.

(1) Canada must have a strong and viable beef industry. The benefits this industry generates for all Canadians are significant and the lost revenue and unutilized resources resulting from a weakened beef industry would be of great economic and social cost to Canada.

(2) Canada's long-term trade policy for the importation of beef, veal and live slaughter cattle must have a positive stabilizing influence on both the long term supply and price of beef.

(3) Canadians must recognize that because of our inherent cost of production disadvantages Canada's beef trade with the United States must be revised. That revision should be on the basis of "a partnership between unequal partners."