

recall the time back in the early '70s when the Republican president by the name of Nixon placed a freeze on the retail price of beef. It was an administrative action. If you have this provision in the bill the industry cannot protect themselves. They can't even go back and argue before the Congress or the administration about the terrible inequity that that caused. I need not point out to you or to any of you the chain of events that have taken place since that time that have caused untold havoc in both the livestock and the commodity interests and which has now spread to business and industry and labor. I think we have to point out also that when we say we are not supposed to influence legislation we have not denied the cities, the counties, school districts, we have not denied the Natural Resource Districts, we have not denied the agencies of government the opportunity to come before this body and express their opinion or, in fact, to travel to other areas and express their opinion. The major adverse impact upon the industry today is that which has been caused by improper government action, action that was detrimental to the industry at one time or another. I will give you one more example. I spent some time about a month ago, I went back to Chicago. I met with some representatives of the Japanese Beef Import Industry. They told me very frankly, they said there are several things that we need that if we are about to increase the importation of beef into Japan. Number one, we need help from your industry. We've got to have your industry cooperating with us and with the Japanese government. Number two, your industry needs to convince the State Department, the Department of Agriculture of the terrible inequity that exists by the denial of access to the Japanese market. Number three, you need to have some kind of industry contact with representatives of the Japanese government to convince the Japanese that it is in their interest to import more U.S. beef into the country of Japan. The consumption of beef has dropped dramatically in the last few years, partly due, in fact, also to some of the improper government advice that was issued relative to red meat in the diet. Are we to tell this industry which is gathering funds for the purpose of promotion, dissemination of information, et cetera, that they cannot take efforts to counteract that kind of bad publicity. I do not think you want to do that. I think Senator Sieck made some excellent points. I concur with him 100%. The committee members wrestled with the problem. We are aware of the problem but I just think it is inadvisable at this time to adopt Senator Vickers amendment. I would like to have you give it a try to adopt the 953 as it is drafted with this legislation. I assure those of you who will oppose the amendment and I told members of the industry that if any time, any time the public doesn't like what is being done by one of these boards they, of