The original documents are located in Box 119, folder "Meat" of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

August 6, 1975

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SIGNS PROCLAMATION ON CANADIAN MEAT

The President has signed a Proclamation removing quantitative restrictions on imports of live cattle, pork, and hogs from Canada. The President's action was in response to simultaneous removal by the Canadian government of temporary limitations on the importation of live cattle from the United States. The actions of both governments are effective as of August 7, 1975.

Why were the import restrictions placed on Canadian cattle in the first place?

GUIDANCE: Last summer, we had low prices for hogs and cattle in the United States, so Canada then placed import quotas on importation of cattle from the United States. We felt this was an unjustifiable restriction and then therefore, President Ford imposed import restrictions on Canadian cattle, beef, veal, swine and pork.

By what authority can the President impose or remove import st restrictions?

GUIDANCE: Section 252a of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 authorizes the President to impose duties or other import restrictions on the products of any foreign country establishing or maintaining unjustifiable import restrictions against the United States agricultural products which impair the value of tariff commitments made to the United States, oppress the commerce of the United States, or prevent the expansion of trade on a mutually advantageous basis.

Does today's Proclamation completely remove all of the restrictions placed on by President Ford in his previous Proclamation?

GUIDANCE: President Ford's original Proclamation, signed on November 16, 1974, limited the importation of live beef, veal, swine, and pork.

(More)

Why is the President not removing restrictions on beef and veal at this time?

GUIDANCE: This is the first step in the restoration of an open border in livestock trade and it is hoped that a further lifting of U.S. restrictions on beef and veal, together with removal of Canadian limitations on U.S. beef and veal, will follow from today's joint action.

What effect on prices will today's action have?

GUIDANCE: It is expected that today's action will have very little, if any, effect on prices. The prices on both sides of the border are very close to each other. Traditionally, more products have moved from Canada to the U.S. than from the U.S. to Canada.

If that is the case, then one would expect that the American cattle farmer would be unhappy since more imports would be coming in than exports going out. Do you agree?

GUIDANCE: American farmers traditionally believe in free trade around the world because we are more efficient and compete favorably in prices.

I might just point out that last year 21.6 billion dollars in agricultural products were exported (wheat, soybeans, barley, etc.). During that same period, the U.S. imported 9.6 billion dollars worth of agricultural products (bananas, coffee, sugar, etc.), so that we had a 12 billion dollar favorable balance of trade because of our agricultural exports.

Until the President signed this Proclamation, what was the limitation on cattle, hogs, and pork?

GUIDANCE: Annual imports from Canada had been limited to 17,000 head of cattle, 50,000 hogs, and 36 million pounds of pork. The Canadians had limited imports of U.S. slaughter cattle to 82,835 head annually. For a comparison, during the period 1969-1973, the United States imported from Canada an annual average of 220,000 head of feeder cattle, 67,000 swine, and 64 million pounds of pork, while exporting 80,000 head of slaughter cattle, 2500 swine and 35 million pounds of pork, annually.

JGC