

Canadians impose restrictions

The Canadian government chose July 4 as the date to announce and impose their proposed border restrictions on U. S. shell and processed eggs.

The action effectively closed the border for several days as the plan required importers to be licensed and licensing procedure was not announced until Monday, July 7. After an importer is licensed, he can apply for a permit to import eggs within the quota established by the Canadian government.

Under the plan, U.S. egg producers will be allocated 0.36 percent of the Canadian domestic market based on the 1969-73 Canadian production. This figure, rounded off to the nearest truckload, will be approximately 54,000 cases for a twelve month period. For

the balance of 1975, some 36,000 cases of shell eggs will be allowed. This quota will be broken down into monthly quotas based on historical marketing patterns. The quota for July 5 through July 31 is 3,250 cases. August's quota has not been announced.

On further processed eggs, the Canadians have established a quota of 84,360 cases (equivalent) for dried eggs. This figure will be divided into four equal quarterly quotas of approximately 21,090 cases. For the balance of 1975 some 41,243 cases will be allowed to enter Canada. For frozen eggs, some 57,060 cases (equivalent) will be the annual quota. For the balance of 1975, only 27,896 cases will be allowed in Canada.

No Immediate Action Expected From U.S.

The U. S. government is not expected to take any immediate action "unless somebody on the Hill raises " an official of USDA told U.E.P. Wednesday. Secretary Butz told a news agency this week that "progress was being made against trade barriers between the U. S. and Canada but he indicated no immediate retaliation will be made on Canada's imposition of an egg import barrier."

The State Department said Wednesday that the question was under study.

A Maine Congressman reported to a U.E.P. representative last week that "representatives of the State Department, Department of Agriculture, and the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations have been holding meetings and are analyzing the scheme. Economists and attorneys are reviewing the Canadian scheme and a verdict should be rendered within a month as to the position which the U.S. can take."

U.E.P. Asks President to Act

In a telegram to President Ford on Monday, U.E.P. President John Wallace outlined the Canadian import restrictions and stated: "We, therefore, respectfully request you exercise your authority under Title III, Section 301, The Trade Act of

1974, to protect the interest of U.S. egg producers from this unreasonable trade barrier."

In telegrams to Senator Herman Talmadge, - Rep. Thomas Foley, - the Chairman of Senate and House Agriculture Committees - and Ambassador Clayton Yeutter, Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, President Wallace said: "U.S. producers are fearful that our markets will become the dumping ground for surplus Canadian eggs which are certain under Canada's current production control program." He asked each to urge President Ford to respond to this unreasonable restraint to free trade.

Canadians Under Fire at Home

Following the closing of the border on July 4, the Ontario Egg Board raised producer paying prices six cents on July 7. The combined actions brought the ire of the Canadian Food Price Review Board.

In a statement asking the government to explain the decision, the Board accused the Agriculture Minister of using threats and coercion in getting provinces to sign the national egg marketing agreement. The Board

demanding the agreement be made public and that CEMA be required to reveal all decisions on egg prices and surplus removal.

A Canadian newspaper reported July 5 that Alberta Province was the last to agree to the new national egg marketing agreement. The Province joined after the Agriculture Minister threatened to allow imports into it, but not other provinces, and to withdraw the right of its egg board to impose levies. The Minister

was also quoted that the U.S. would be in violation of the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) if it retaliated by cutting imports.

(Note: Figures we have used in all reports on Canadian egg imports, exports, and quotas are from Canadian Agriculture Department reports. There are some differences with monthly figures of USDA and Commerce, but the Canadian figures are available weekly.)

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