

ITC votes to support mushroom tariff, opposes modification

KENNETT SQUARE — The United States International Trade Commission voted 5-0 last week to report to President Reagan that any further modification of the mushroom tariff (Presidential Proclamation 4801) would have a detrimental economic effect on the domestic mushroom industry.

The ITC made this decision after reviewing testimony from the March 10 ITC hearing at which the

American Mushroom Institute testified on behalf of the domestic mushroom industry, presenting evidence of mushroom industry adjustment to competition from imports and opposing the modification of the mushroom tariff.

The Commission stated that imports from China and Hong Kong had indeed restrained mushroom processors from being

able to offer American growers a fair price for their mushrooms, resulting in low profits for the entire mushroom industry. In keeping with this statement, the Commission opposed any

relaxation of the increased duties on canned and frozen mushrooms broiled butter or butter sauce it would allow importers to circumvent the tariff.

"Protecting this tariff is one of the AMI's prime goals," said Jack Kooker, executive director of the AMI. "I am proud that the AMI's efforts have helped insure the maintenance of the increased duties."

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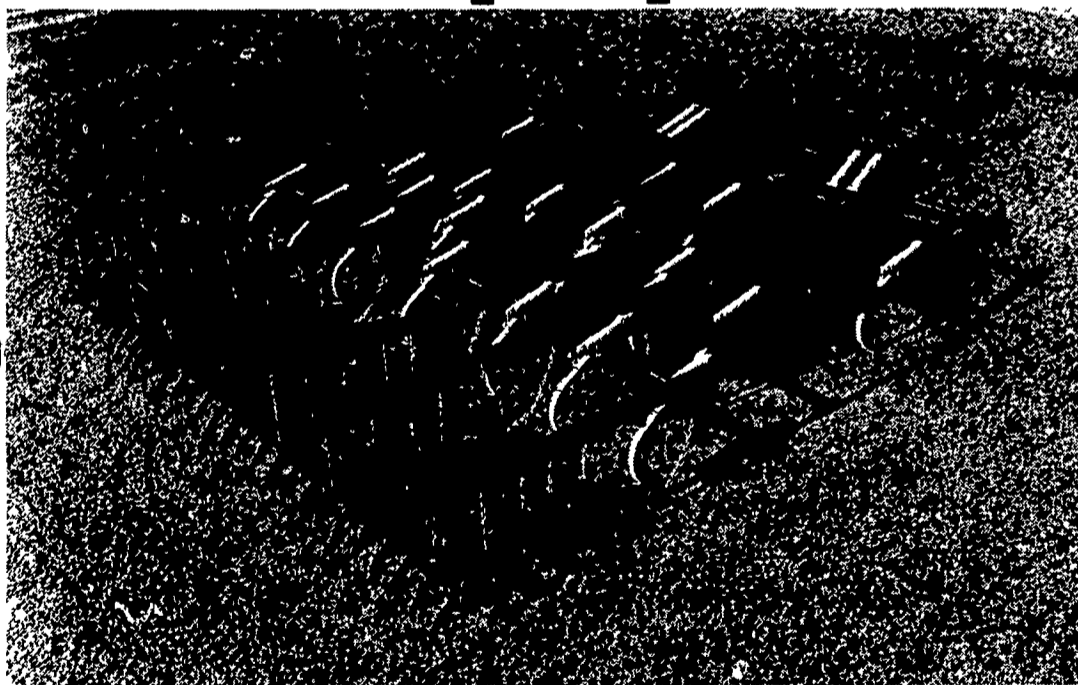
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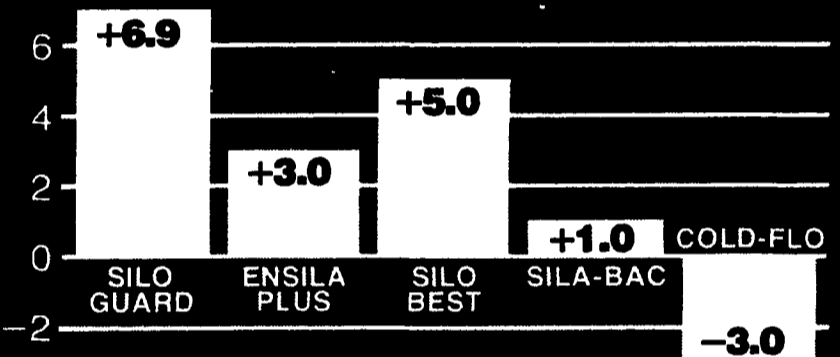
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