

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Department of Agriculture

FATS AND OILS: The United States expects to schedule for import approximately 240 million pounds of fats and oils and to schedule for export approximately 138 million pounds of fats and oils during the first quarter of 1947, the Department of Agriculture announced on December 30. This is on the basis of the International Emergency Food Council recommendations for the international distribution of fats and oils during the first quarter of 1947. This is the first time since 1942 that the United States will be on a net import rather than a net export basis.

No recommendations for the international distribution of fats and oils during later quarters of 1947 were made by I.E.F.C., although it announced its intention to promulgate such recommendations prior to the beginning of the second quarter.

Exports of fats and oils from the United States, contemplated under this program, would consist principally of lard, soybean oil, shortening, margarine, and soap, together with relatively small quantities of other fat and oil commodities. Imports into the United States would consist principally of copra (for crushing into coconut oil), linseed oil, castor beans and oil, and smaller quantities of tung, rapeseed, and other oils.

* * * * *

IMPORT CONTROLS: The Department of Agriculture, on December 24, announced the removal of controls on the importation into the continental United States from all countries of pickled or salted cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk. This action was taken in Amdt. 18 to WFO-63, effective December 24, 1946. The Department explained that quotas have been established and import licenses issued for almost all the United States allocation of these fishery products for the 1946 pack year. Export controls in producing countries are now sufficient to warrant removal of United States import restrictions, officials said.

Importation of various pickled, salted, and canned fish has been restricted since early in the war, but controls are being lifted gradually in line with worldwide conditions. With this amendment in effect, the following classes of fishery products remain under import control:

- Canned salmon (not in oil, or in oil and other substances)
- Sardines (in oil, or in oil and other substances)
- Canned sardines and other herring (including snacks, tidbits, rollmops, and sprats)
- Herring (canned, smoked, kippered, or in tomato sauce)
- Tuna fish (in oil, or in oil and other substances)
- Other canned fish (in oil, not in oil, or in oil and other substances)

A license obtained from the Department of Agriculture is required for the importation of any of these items from all countries except Norway.



Civilian Production Administration

TINPLATE: The removal of all tinplate controls which previously had channelled the major portion of tinmill output into the production of cans for essential and perishable food was announced by the Civilian Production Administration on December 24. The amendment to M-81 became effective December 27.

This action permits the use of cans for packing shortening, coffee, beer, pet foods, and a number of other food products previously banned under the order. Non-food products for which tinplate is now permitted on an unlimited basis, as compared with a former quota basis, include turpentine, polishes, shellac, waxes, paints, liquid soap, roofing cement, etc.

CPA explained that this is the slack period in the food-canning industry and that the relaxation of the tinplate controls at this relatively early date in the 1947 food-packing season would give canners ample opportunity to make arrangements for their spring tinplate deliveries.

Remaining unchanged in Order M-81 are the restrictions which regulate the amount of tin coating to be used in tinplate for cans, and also the restrictions regulating the sizes of tin containers. These controls were retained, CPA said, because they offered the best methods of conserving pig tin, which is still in short supply.



Interstate Commerce Commission

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS RATES: All basic freight rates and charges of rail and water carriers may be increased by 20 percent, according to the Interstate Commerce Commission decision of December 6, 1946. These new increased rates will become effective upon the filing of new tariffs by the railroads during the period January 1 to February 28, 1947. Fish and fishery products follow the general rate increase allowed by the Commission. However, the increase in the rates for fish oil is subject to a maximum of 12 cents per hundred pounds, and, for the important group--canned fish--subject to a maximum of 13 cents per hundred pounds.

The rate increases will be somewhat higher in the "official territory" (including the territory between the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, the Atlantic Coast, and the Mason-Dixon Line) for less than carload and "any quantity" traffic. In these cases, an increase of 25 percent within official territory and of 22.5 percent between official territory and points in other territories are permitted.

By a prior decision dated October 28, 1946, the Interstate Commerce Commission allowed increased express rates and charges amounting to 20 cents per hundred pounds.

