

P.J.Hillyer

N.S.W.

To it may concern,

In the readout I have received it is said that during the last decade the forms of assistance to the Citrus Industry have decreased from 35% to 5%. Who made these decisions? Without virtually any consultation with the Industry e.g; Growers, Packers and Processors. Which has caused so much hardship and Instability in the Industry.

It is also a fact that juice imports, at least two to three times in the last decade and a half have been dumped at a price of the Australian equivalent ton of \$80 a ton to as low as \$30 a ton. Why has the Car Industry still have a 15% Tariff Protecting it? Why does it take the Australian Government two hundred and forty days to take action on dumping, when the USA takes two weeks. Why was -no action taken?

I have also noticed that American lamb producers were consulted before their Government took action, to remove tariffs and found other measures to protect their Industry. Is it also correct that Brazil has a \$40% Tariff on Juice Imports Protecting its Citrus Industry. We are told to export but many Countries have hidden restrictions e.g; USA has windowsit opens only for short periods for imports and other countries have quotas, e.g; Taiwan and Japan.

Why is the Australians both Fresh and Juice market opened virtually all year round. Other than quarantine restrictions, e.g; New Zealand Apples. Why are not Juice imports not quoted into Australia? A few questions I would like to ask. How does the USA as a member of the W.T.O. able to keep tariffs as high as 60%, on its Dairy and Sugar Industries and 40% on imported Juice concentrate and tariffs and quotas on Fresh Fruit Imports.

We have also heard that the USA is increasing its quarantine rules to further limit the import of Fresh produce ,e.g; Australian Navels.

Competitiveness in the Industry

It is to my Knowledge that Australian Citrus Growers are as competitive as they can be, under present conditions, e.g; in my area paying approximately three times the price for water than large area rice farmers. Brazil has many advantages over Australian Citrus Growers, cheap irrigation water, e.g; tropical rain. Very large farms owned by Florida Business men labour costs of \$3 per day. Do they pay workers compensation and superannuation, to their workers? It is also hard to understand to give a foreign country our home market and tell us to export.

To change from Valencia trees, e.g; concentrate juice producers to washington navels or mandarines, would take seven to ten years the length of a tree to grow to maturity and produce fruit as there is really no shortage of navel oranges for export this would cause over supply of both local and export markets.

As shown in the wine industry as farmers changed from citrus to grapes causing an oversupply in grapes. Also in N.S.W, it has been proposed to expand the citrus industry by planting up large area farms up north, in market already over supplied. This would be o.k. only if imports were limited or controlled.

We in Australia have labour costs twice that of the USA and thirty times that of Brazil and other third world countries. Also due to low prices in previous years due to imports and dumping money has not been available for improved irrigation schemes and better harvesting equipment. e.g; mobile picking ladders. On a previous letter written to Australian Politicians, I have been told that the industry has to move away from production of low priced concentrate, but this was the saviour of the industry in the 70's and 80's When fresh markets were over supplied and flooded from over production in South Australia. The question that does arise should a foreign country like Brazil control the prices of all parts of the Australian market, e.g; fresh produce and juice products a known fact.

I have also noticed that on reading the article that the percentage of fruit imported juice has increased 19 million to 76 million tons and increasing imports of fresh Fruit on a percentage basis far exceeds our exports in other words we are losing our local market to imports, e.g; the imports of orange juice concentrate were equivalent to 295,000 tons of fresh fruit.

On a final note on reading the rules of the W.T.O. it seems little can be done in the form of a permanent Tariff of at least 40%, which is needed for our local Citrus Industry to regain stability and level out the boom bust cycle of the Industry. It is up to the Government to have the Guts to reinstate the Tariff as other countries would do for their Industries. We are told of the virtues of free trade and the level playing field(Australia the only country on the Field).

Where are the cheap quality tractors and farm machinery now the tractor Industries gone. As promised by the economists, it can also be said that Tariff reductions and the phasing out of protection has been disastrous for many Australian Industries, which have closed or gone offshore-The Electronics Industry closing, in the seventies and eighties. Is why Australia is not at the forefront of IT Computer Technology. As the Australian Citrus Industry is a larger employer than the Rice Industry, it shows that Australia continues to close Industries and Export Jobs overseas in the name of Globalization.

Yours Sincerely

(signed)

P.J. Hillyer

Included with this submission were three photographs which could not be reproduced clearly in an electronic document for publication on the website.

The photograph captions were:

- 1 Fruit dumped June 2000 not wanted for Juice concentrate due to imports
- 2 Top quality Washington Navals allowed to drop 2000 crop year failure of export Markets
- 3 Top juice Valencia trees pushed 2000 to be replaced with grapes as Brazil takes Aust market