Charolais Meeting Aired

Lafayette, La.
Oct. 21, 1953

Editor, Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, La.

Dear Sir:

Please publish in your Forum the enclosed statement.

Thanking you, I am

S-ASHTON J. MOUTON
Mayor, City of Lafayette, La.

On or about August 28, 1952 I met in Opelousas, Louisiana, with Mr. Dave Pearce, Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Louisiana, Dr. F. B. Wheeler, State Veterinarian, Dr. F. E. Saulman, U.S. B. A. I. Veterinarian for Louisiana, and Mr. Alphe A. Broussard, for the purpose of discussing with them the plans of Mr. Alphe A. Broussard to bring into the United States from Mexico the internationally known Jean Pugibet Charolais Herd, now under seizure by the U.S. Government, at Lafayette.

As Mayor of the City of Lafayette, I felt that it was my duty to assist in every way possible to encourage any project which would mean potential benefits to our great area.

Mr. Broussard explained to these gentlemen on this occasion in detail the character and background of the herd, where it was located in Mexico; and of his hopes of being able to bring the cattle into the United States. These gentlemen unanimously agreed that it was a wonderful idea and would be of great benefit to the Louisiana Cattle Industry, as well as the nation.

Dr. Saulman stated on this occasion that his background included some two years of experience with the U.S. Hoof and Mouth disease eradication force in South Mexico. He knew well the area where the cattle were being herd, the particular area of Mexico, and the herd, were free of hoof and mouth disease and had not been involved or contaminated in any previous outbreak of the disease.

Mr. Pearce, Drs. Saulman and Wheeler expressed themselves to the effect that they could see no threat to the Cattle Industry by moving the Charolais Herd to Louisiana.

Mr. Pearce volunteered and did write a letter to Mr. Henri Gilly, former owner of the herd before Mr. Broussard, highly commending the character and reputation of Mr. Broussard as well as encouraging the importation of these cattle into Louisiana.

I have read the recent statements by Drs. Wheeler and Saulman and I am at a loss to understand their change of heart. At the meeting they offered Mr. Broussard every encouragement to persist in his purpose of setting up an artificial breeding project which would be of great benefit to the cattle industry of our nation. Dr. Saulman agreed wholeheartedly that an artificial breeding project of this kind with this herd could be of great benefit to the cattle industry of our nation.

Dr. Saulman and I both agreed that Mr. Broussard's plan was good and would greatly help our cattle industry.

We discussed the fact that during the past several years a number of Charolais bulls had been imported and, insofar as any of us know, they had proved to be healthy and of great benefit to their owners and the cattle industry.

S. Dr. WILLIS S. HORNSBY, DVM
Veterinarian
Lafayette, Louisiana.