

It has also been asserted that with a gradual lowering of tariff rates there would be no need to bother with governmental aid in adaptation, since under such circumstances the necessary changes in the industrial structure would take place anyway. The answer to this objection is, that even in a situation like the present, when there exists legislation providing for a gradual decrease of tariff duties over a number of years, there is still a great deal of opposition to a freeing of trade, to judge from testimony before congressional committees studying our trade policy, and from the number of applications for relief from competitive imports processed by the Tariff Commission. Therefore, even with a gradual reduction of tariff duties, a comparatively simple trade adjustment program, that cuts down resistance to increased imports, would enhance the boon to economic progress.¹⁶

¹⁶ Attitudes of prospective beneficiaries from the program admittedly will vary. But it seems likely that a successful assistance program would fare like other innovations: accepted only by a few at first, it would later be taken for granted by the community at large.