

strongly that the concept of congressional delegates to trade negotiations should not be allowed to expire with our retirement. As new negotiations are begun, Members of the Congress should be named as delegates. Through this means, the Congress can both advise and be kept informed on the conduct of our trade relations. The two-way usefulness of the congressional delegates has been proved in the Kennedy Round.

Mr. Chairman, I have tried to focus my remarks on a particular aspect of our conduct of trade negotiations, that of the utilization of means of clarifying the public interest through the participation of representatives of the public and of the Congress in the policy development process. I would recommend that this aspect be given full consideration in the deliberations of this distinguished subcommittee.

Chairman Boggs. Congressman Curtis, we are very happy to have you here this morning. You may begin.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS B. CURTIS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI AND A DELEGATE TO THE KENNEDY ROUND

Representative CURTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Economic Policy, I first want to thank you for your invitation to me as a congressional delegate for trade negotiations to testify during these important hearings on trade policy. I also want to thank the chairman for his invitation to me to sit on the subcommittee panel during these hearings, in light of the fact that, though I am a member of the full Joint Economic Committee, I am not formally a member of this subcommittee.

I would also like to express my great enthusiasm that these hearings on foreign trade are now being held. They have been badly needed, and will serve a very useful and very important purpose: to give perspective to the negotiations just past and to give focus to the many new ideas about trade policy now current. I hope such hearings by this subcommittee, or by the full Joint Committee, can be held regularly—ideally, I would hope they could be held at least annually and that the base of this annual congressional trade inquiry could be the President's Annual Trade Report, a requirement of section 226 of the Trade Expansion Act.

If the Joint Economic Committee would hold hearings annually on this document as they do on the President's Annual Economic Report, I think we could move forward greatly in our understanding of these very complicated matters involving international economics and trade.

At the outset I would like to establish what I consider to be the context in which our trade negotiating efforts have taken place since the 1930's. The Tariff Act of 1930—the "Smoot-Hawley" Tariff enacted the highest rates the Nation had had—higher even than the exceptional rate in the 1922 Fordney-McCumber Tariff. Starting from this high level of rates, reciprocal trade negotiations beginning in 1934 and proceeding until the Kennedy Round have in effect amended the 1930 tariff schedules.