

FOREIGN TRADE AND TARIFF PROPOSALS

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in the committee room, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Wilbur D. Mills (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please be in order.

The committee is today beginning public hearings on the general subject of the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations. The hearings will encompass not only the administration proposal, which was transmitted to the Congress on May 28 last, and is in bill form, H.R. 17551, but also the series of subjects which were mentioned in the press release of May 9 announcing the hearings.

Without objection, a copy of that press release will be placed in the record following this statement.

Also, without objection, a copy of the President's message of May 28, a copy of H.R. 17551, embodying the administration's proposal, and a section-by-section analysis of that proposal prepared by the executive branch, as printed in the committee print entitled "Proposed 'Trade Expansion Act of 1968'" will be placed in the record.

A large number of requests to be heard have been received. It is our expectation that this hearing must be completed not later than July 3, 1968, if it is at all possible. This makes it very important that all organizations and individuals coordinate their testimony to the maximum extent possible and even condense their statements.

Of course, full statements may be included in the record.

In general, this week will be devoted to testimony from administration officials; the week of June 10 will be devoted to receipt of general testimony; and the last 2 weeks will be devoted to receipt of testimony on a commodity-by-commodity or industry-by-industry basis.

Our witnesses today will be the Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Cyrus R. Smith; the Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Stewart L. Udall; the Secretary of Labor, the Honorable W. Willard Wirtz; and the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Ambassador William M. Roth.

Tomorrow we will hear testimony specifically on the administration's proposal from Ambassador Roth. On Thursday we will receive statements from the Secretary of State, the Honorable Dean Rusk; the Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Orville L. Freeman; and Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, Miss Betty Furness.