

We will leave Friday of this week available in the event it is needed for further interrogation of the administration officials. It is suggested that the four witnesses be permitted to sit as a panel and complete their statements in their entirety as a group prior to interrogation. Is there any objection to that procedure?

None is heard. I believe that this will make it possible for us to obtain a more orderly presentation. I understand that all the members of the panel will be available during the afternoon session, if necessary, for interrogation except for a brief period when the Secretary of the Interior will have to be elsewhere.

(The material follows:)

[Press Release, Thursday, May 9, 1968]

CHAIRMAN WILBUR D. MILLS, DEMOCRAT, OF ARKANSAS, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TARIFF AND TRADE PROPOSALS

Chairman Wilbur D. Mills (D., Ark.), Committee on Ways and Means, today announced that public hearings would be held by the Committee beginning on Tuesday, June 4, 1968, on the general subject of the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations. The hearings will encompass the following subjects:

- (1) Such proposals as may be made by the Administration relative to—
 - (a) the extension of the President's trade agreement authority under the Trade Expansion Act;
 - (b) amendment of the adjustment assistance criteria for firms and workers adversely affected by imports;
 - (c) the elimination of the American selling price valuation on benzenoid chemicals and certain other products; and
 - (d) other related trade agreement matters.
- (2) Proposals relative to imposition of quotas, either on an across-the-board basis or on named items or commodities.
- (3) Proposals for increasing our exports.
- (4) Proposals relative to antidumping, countervailing duties, and related matters.
- (5) Proposals on tariff matters generally.
- (6) Results of Kennedy Round agreement.
- (7) Measures directed at maintaining our favorite balance of trade and other matters related to the balance of trade in the context of our balance of payments problems.

It is expected that the Administration proposals will be transmitted to the Congress prior to the hearing. As soon as they are received, they will be made available to the public so that the general public will be in a position to testify on that subject.

The hearing will begin on Tuesday, June 4, 1968. The lead-off witnesses will be representatives of the Administration who will testify during the first few days. Administration witnesses will be followed by witnesses from the general public.

Requests to be heard must be submitted not later than the close of business Monday, May 27, 1968. In due course, witnesses will be advised as to when they are scheduled. Details relative to the scheduling of witnesses and the information required in connection therewith are set forth below.

Lead-Off Witnesses.—As indicated, the first witnesses to appear at the hearings will be representatives of the Administration. This testimony will be followed by interested public witnesses.

Cut-off Date for Requests to be Heard.—The cut-off date for requests to be heard is not later than the close of business Monday, May 27, 1968. The requests should be submitted to John M. Martin, Jr., Chief Counsel, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Witnesses will be advised as promptly as possible after the cut-off date as to when they have been scheduled to appear. After receipt of all requests to be heard, an attempt will be made to organize the hearings so that persons requesting to be heard on the same subject will be scheduled during the same time period.

Coordination of Testimony.—In view of the broad scope of the hearings, the