

CONCLUSION

We are at a stage when it is important to the Nation that we focus on our role in international trade. We have the opportunity, as businessmen, Members of Congress, and officials of the Government, to deal with the need to increase our national trade balance by either positive or negative means.

I strongly believe that the right course for the country is the positive course. Therefore, as I urge each American businessman to make greater efforts in export markets, I urge the Congress to enact the President's trade bill and to turn aside the many proposals seeking to deal with our current trade problem in negative terms.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Our next witness is the Secretary of the Interior, a longtime friend of many members of our committee and former Member of the House, the Honorable Stewart L. Udall. We appreciate having you back with us. You are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. STEWART L. UDALL, SECRETARY OF THE
INTERIOR**

Secretary UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the vital issues before you. The Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the committee for its wisdom in exploring at this time all aspects of future U.S. trade policy.

The timeliness of your review of the Nation's trade policies and trade programs cannot be too strongly underscored:

A highly successful tariff negotiation has been concluded in the so-called Kennedy round.

Since the conclusion of the Kennedy round, the United States has been laying the groundwork for a substantial attack on nontariff barriers to its trade in world markets.

At the request of the President, the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Ambassador William M. Roth, is conducting an intensive review of our trade policies and programs.

Just last week, President Johnson sent to the Congress a trade bill with essential authorities to carry forward our trade program. I strongly urge enactment of that bill.

This committee now has before it a host of so-called quota bills.

All of the foregoing emphasizes the importance of the work on which your committee is embarking. The direction we choose or the direction in which we appear to be headed will greatly affect our ability in the coming months to influence our trading partners and to reassure them of the stability of our course. At the same time, your hearings are a natural counterpart to the executive branch studies headed by Ambassador Roth. I am convinced that out of these simultaneous efforts the essential reassessment of our trade policy will be soundly made and the Nation's course soundly set.

As for matters under my authority, I am particularly concerned that action to erect more barriers at this time would incite retaliation from abroad with respect to commodities which we export.