Nontariff barriers on agricultural products[4] are omitted from this discussion but not because they lack importance; in fact, they limit trade much more than those on industrial products. However, in the Atlantic area, nontariff restrictions on agricultural products are largely a by-product of domestic agricultural policies. They cannot be abolished or modified unless these policies are abandoned or changed. While domestic agricultural systems are central to any discussion of nontariff barriers on agricultural products, such a discussion requires separate treatment that is beyond the scope of this chapter.[5]

There are many misconceptions and some misleading information about nontariff barriers that, on the one hand, overstate their importance and, on the other, understate it. In large part, this is due to the difficulties in estimating the trade effects of nontariff as opposed to tariff restrictions. While price comparisons can be made to estimate the tariff equivalent of some nontariff barriers on standardized products that have comparable world market and domestic prices, such estimates are possible chiefly with respect to fuels, raw materials, and agricultural products. Furthermore, "world" and "domestic" price comparisons can usually be made only in relation to a few nontariff barriers, such as import quotas, that are imposed on particular products. Such comparisons are virtually impossible to make for nontariff barriers that apply to all imports, such as complex customs regulations.

Estimates of the trade effects of nontariff barriers must be based in most instances on the educated guesses of commodity or other specialists who have a "feel" for the subject.[6] In some cases, even guesses are not possible. For example, a "guesstimate" can be made of how much coal might be im-

[4] Most items in Chaps. 1 to 24 of the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature are treated here as agricultural products. However, some of these products, such as whiskey and cigarettes, are regarded as industrial.

[5] See, for example, John O. Coppock, *North Atlantic Policy—The Agricultural Gap* (New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1963).

[6] An example of a study based on such estimates is Howard S. Piquet, *Aid, Trade, and the Tariff* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1953), particularly Chap. 8. See, also, Robert M. Stern, "The U.S. Tariff and the Efficiency of the U.S. Economy," *The American Economic Review*, LIV, No. 3 (May, 1964), pp. 459–70. This article, which relates to Piquet's estimates, evaluates the economic significance of U.S. tariffs and import quotas.