

progressively extended the coverage of its trade-agreement concessions to include most tariff items. Consequently, in recent years there have been very few investigations under Section 336, and even fewer involving ASP. Only three cases in which ASP valuation is applied remain in effect: rubber-soled footwear with fabric uppers, canned clams, and knit wool gloves and mittens valued at \$1.75 or less per dozen pairs. These cases date from 1933, 1934, and 1936, respectively.

In 1964, the foreign invoice value of U.S. imports of rubber-soled footwear was \$16.9 million, of which \$13.4 million was competitive and valued on the basis of ASP.⁶² Imports of competitive footwear, more than 80 per cent of which was supplied by Japan, constituted less than 5 per cent of U.S. production of approximately \$285 million. The duty on rubber footwear of 20 per cent applied to ASP valuation has an average *ad valorem* equivalent of 58 per cent when compared with conventional appraisement.⁶³ The estimated foreign export value of 1964 imports of canned clams, almost all of which came from Japan, was \$0.4 million, of which \$0.2 million was competitive and valued on the basis of ASP. The 20 per cent duty on these clams has an average *ad valorem* equivalent of 57 per cent of conventional valuation.⁶⁴ In recent years there have been no imports of the knit wool gloves that are subject to ASP valuation. Both imports and domestic production have been insignificant since the mid-1930s, because the increased price of wool and other production costs have made it uneconomical to produce gloves in this low-value category.

While tariff rates applied to ASP usually result in much higher duties than would normally be the case, these higher duties do not constitute nontariff barriers. The aspect of customs valuation that constitutes a nontariff barrier is uncertainty, which in the case of ASP is considerable. Domestic producers may influence the extent of their tariff protection

⁶² During most of 1964, other rubber footwear was also subject to ASP valuation. However, the Tariff Schedules Technical Amendments Act of 1965 substituted higher duties for ASP valuation of certain rubber footwear. Only imports of rubber footwear that remain subject to ASP valuation are included in the statistics cited above.

⁶³ See U.S. Tariff Commission, *Products Subject to ASP; Conversion of Rates*, TC Publication 181.

⁶⁴ See *ibid.*