

FOREIGN TRADE AND TARIFF PROPOSALS

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 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.

Our first witness this morning is our colleague from Alabama, the Honorable John Buchanan. Is Mr. Buchanan present?

Our next witness is our colleague from Georgia, the Honorable Benjamin Blackburn. Is Mr. Blackburn present?

I see our next colleague is present, the gentleman from Oklahoma Mr. Smith, please come forward. We appreciate having you with us this morning and taking time from your busy schedule to come and advise with us and you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES V. SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I want to express my appreciation to you and the other distinguished members of this committee for the opportunity to testify on the serious situation which exists today in many areas of our economy because of the importation of foreign products into our country.

I feel that I would be shirking my duties as a Member of Congress if I did not present my views concerning the economic damage that is being done to many of the Nation's industries as a result of foreign importation. In my opinion, one of the greatest culprits in the supply-demand situation is the Federal Government's present liberal import policies. Every nation of the world has import barriers directed against us in the form of fees, quotas, and other protective devices for their own products. Indications are that we have been far too intent on making "friends" to protect properly our own basic industry. This must be a two-way road. We should continue to work for lower tariffs everywhere, but they must be on a reciprocal basis. While I realize that many similar bills have been introduced in this body concerning imports, I have, as well, introduced several bills which are presently pending before this distinguished committee. The measures which I have introduced encompass import restrictions which I feel are necessary in the dairy (H.R. 5352), meat (H.R. 9375), oil (H.R. 10699), honey (H.R. 10677) and steel (H.R. 17565) industries.