

I am concerned about excessive imports of textiles. Forty-five of our States grow cotton or manufacture cotton goods. In 1960 we spent over \$500 million for imported textiles. But today the figure is over twice that amount. The welfare of our 2.5 million people employed by the textile industry is being undermined. I wish to express my support for a viable import quota on textiles of all types of fibers—natural or man-made.

The United States is the leading producer of hides and user of leather in the world. I am vitally interested in protecting our leather industry. In scarcely a dozen years our imports of shoes rose from 8 million pairs to around 46 million leather pairs and 26 million pairs of other manufacture in 1967. This is around 24 percent of our American domestic market, an excessive percentage. Too many of our shoe factories are operating at far below their normal capacity. At the utmost, around 10 percent of our yearly consumption should be allocated to foreign shoe products.

Lead and zinc are among our foremost products of the Southwest. Isn't it time that Congress adopt a long-range mineral program, allowing for flexible quotas, particularly when imports threaten our domestic industry? Lead and zinc are vital to our national security. Yet their production here at home seems to hang on the wildly fluctuating prices of world markets. In times of excessive production most overseas producers want to dump their excess stocks on our domestic market, thereby disturbing our regular production and marketing programs. A quota can stop this practice.

The remanufacture of iron and steel products is vital to our economy of New Mexico. Yet national imports have climbed from only 1.2 million tons in 1957 to 13 million tons in 1967. Our domestic steel producers cannot compete because of low wages overseas. Due to competition our own steel producers have less money for modernization or newer processes. Only a quota on imports can stop the ever-increasing injury to our domestic steel industry.

We in New Mexico are also concerned about the excessive imports of beef, veal, and lamb; particularly frozen, boned meats. Excessive imports have drastically reduced our feedlot cattle and also the number of workers in meatpacking plants. Our existing quotas are either too large or are being evaded by imports under different guises. Let us tighten the limits on beef imports by means of a flexible quota based on American consumption.

Among other items which are also of interest to me is broomcorn. We know that consumption of broomcorn is diminishing. This is all the more reason for restricting consumption to corn produced domestically. Yet we find excessive quantities imported from Mexico, beyond the current quota, competing more and more with our own broomcorn. Only a quota, based on consumption, can safeguard this American industry.

Other items also should be reduced by absolute quotas, based on consumption. I feel that congressional sentiment is strong for import quotas, especially if excessive imports threaten to harm a domestic industry producing like or competitive products.

Again, I would like to thank the members of this committee, and Chairman Mills, for this opportunity to express my views on this important subject. I have only touched briefly on the various areas of