

FOREIGN TRADE AND TARIFF PROPOSALS

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 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 North Carolina, Hon. Basil L. Whitener. Is Mr. Whitener present?

Our next witness is also from North Carolina, Hon. James T. Broyhill. Mr. Broyhill, we appreciate your being with us this morning and you are recognized, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES T. BROYHILL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. BROYHILL. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I very much appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony this morning on the question of U.S. trade policy. In my opinion, the deliberations of this committee will have far-reaching consequences for the economic welfare of the Nation.

I should like to say at the beginning of these remarks that there is a regrettable tendency in discussing international trade policies to oversimplify the very complex arguments and to categorize those participating in the discussion as "free traders" or "protectionists." Oversimplification or name calling, however, only damages a sincere and reasonable consideration of the issues involved here.

There is no question that international trade is essential to the American economy. The exchange of goods among the nations of the world is equally essential for stable and harmonious relations. These are basic facts which any consideration of trade policy must accept at the outset of the discussion. Our problem is to assure that we formulate trade policies which will stimulate international commerce in an orderly and equitable way. There is ample evidence, I believe, that we have failed to develop such policies and we are beginning to see the serious consequences of this failure.

For 20 years, we have assisted both the reconstruction of the war-destroyed economies of other nations and have assisted scores of countries, old and new, in building stronger economic bases. In this process, we have opened our domestic market to encourage imports on an unprecedented scale. At the same time, we have not reacted to the