

These economic facts of life are equally applicable in the case of mink imports. The American mink industry is in a state of crisis. The Tariff Commission report on this problem reveals that imported mink claims 53 percent of the American mink market, an increase of 11 percent since 1957. Mink ranchers are going out of business by the hundreds, yet relief is not in sight. As with dairy products, foreign mink skins, principally from the Scandinavian countries, can be shipped, marketed, and sold in this country for less than the American mink rancher can market them. Government policy appears to place more emphasis on retaining a favorable image abroad than on encouraging its own citizens and businessmen at home.

Trade is a two-way street, and our trade balance is of extreme importance in our position as an international power. It is recognized that the U.S. share of world markets has been shrinking while other countries in the world have expanded their exports more than twice as rapidly as we. And we are absorbing many of these foreign exports—at the expense of our own business community. Must U.S. producers suffer financial losses or even go out of business completely for the purpose of being a “good neighbor” to the rest of the world? It would appear so, from the recent testimony of administration officials before this committee on this subject.

Along with many of my colleagues, I have sponsored legislation to stem the tide of excessive imports. Of particular interest are H.R. 7479, the dairy import bill, H.R. 7480, a section 22 amendment bill, and H.R. 10446, the mink import bill. I urge your immediate and close attention to these and similar measures which will put American farmers and mink ranchers back on their feet and I trust that this committee will endorse appropriate legislation in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions? If not, then thank you Mr. Schadeberg, for sharing your views with us.

Mr. SCHADEBERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is also from Wisconsin, the Honorable William A. Steiger. Mr. Steiger, we appreciate your being with us this morning and you are recognized, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM A. STEIGER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit testimony to the Ways and Means Committee during your deliberations on the Trade Expansion Act of 1968.

There are several areas that I would like to discuss. First, however, let me say that I believe expanded trade is very important, and if we are to create and maintain a viable economy that serves our Nation and provides what it can abroad, then the freedom to trade is a necessity. On the other hand, there are certain industries in this country that are continually threatened by expanded imports.

While I recognize it is difficult to discuss reducing imports in certain areas while we are attempting to expand exports, it is clearly what must be done. While increased exports is a desirable goal, we cannot, in my judgment, sacrifice domestic industries by neglecting the impact of increased imports.