Even the 22% ratio of imports to domestic consumption 1967, which was the highest in the industry's history, does not adequately indicate the full significance of the import rise following the partial restoration of the reduced duties on flat glass. Comparison of the increases in imports and domestic consumption between 1958-60 and 1967 indicates that foreign-produced flat glass supplied nearly 40% of the total growth in the domestic market during this period.

Information for 1968 indicates that U. S. imports of flat glass during the first quarter of this year have bounded upward at an extraordinary rate.

1. Sheet glass imports during the first quarter of 1968 totaled 1.8 million boxes (50 square feet per box). Last year in the first quarter, 1.2 million boxes were received. The per cent change this year versus last year: up 51%.
2. Plate and float glass imports during the first quarter of 1968 totaled 42.0 million square feet. Last year imports during the first quarter totaled 29.5 million square feet. This is a 42% increase, almost as great as that in sheet glass — and truly alarming in its proportions.

This is not a case in which imports are filling a need which cannot be supplied by an industry producing at the limit of its capacity. On the contrary, the imports of sheet glass have increased most heavily in the Western Zone of the United States — up 63% over last year — where a new flat glass manufacturing plant at Fresno, California, is operating far, far below its capacity. The seaport market regions are most heavily affected in sheet glass imports, with New York up 50% and Atlanta up 90%.

The same pattern exists in imports of plate and float glass products; imports of the Western Zone, chiefly from Japan and Taiwan, are up 62%.

It is evident that imports are causing disruption of the domestic flat glass market far beyond the scale which exists in other areas which have been the recipient of positive Governmental action.