

Officials of the U. S. Department of Commerce, the Small Business Administration, and the U. S. Department of Labor have visited flat glass factories in Fresno, California; Shreveport, Louisiana; Henryetta and Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and Charleston and Clarksburg, West Virginia. The stated purpose of these visits was to enable the Government representatives as part of a task force appointed by President Johnson "to search for alternate employment and to take other steps which will work out long-term solutions to the problems created by job dislocation."

At each plant, the Government representatives met with representatives of labor and management, and in some instances with other leaders in the communities in which the plants are located. Without exception, the labor, management, and civic representatives conveyed the determination of the affected members of each community to keep the flat glass plants in existence because of their importance to the economic life of their communities and because of the practical impossibility of retraining the highly paid flat glass workers for comparably remunerative employment in their communities.

The size of the work force and the payrolls represented by these flat glass plants were shown to be of such importance to the business, commercial, and cultural life of these communities that their elimination through deliberate tariff action by the United States was totally unacceptable to the workers and to the community leaders, as well as to management of the plants.

The loss of employment in the communities in which flat glass plants are located as a result of the continuing gross imbalance in U. S. foreign trade in flat glass can be measured. By relating the plant shipments of flat glass to total employment in the flat glass industry, it is possible to derive a general indication of the amount of employment associated with each thousand square feet of plant shipments of flat glass. When this factor is applied to the square foot equivalent of flat glass moving in foreign trade, an approximation of the United States employment counterpart of these imports and exports may be derived.