

domestic producers or industries against undue import competition. United States legislation pertaining to international trade negotiations or arrangements should include:

1. Reaffirmation of the "peril-point" principle, with such determination to be made by the Tariff Commission, and mandatory requirements that the executive branch be accountable to Congress for exceptions made in peril-point proceedings.

2. Strong endorsement of "escape clause" provisions, with emphasis on procedures for prompt review and action to protect domestic producers and industries against abrupt or critical damage from imports.

3. Specific recognition that the growers of any agricultural product used in the manufacture of a commodity involved in peril-point or escape clause proceedings shall be considered a part of the domestic industry producing that commodity, and any organization or group of such growers shall be considered to be interested parties in such proceedings."

In summary, the National Council has consistently endorsed the principle of trade barrier reduction and other measures for expanded world trade. We favor reciprocal actions toward this end, preferably through multilateral negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In such negotiations, reciprocity should be considered and applied for all products in international trade, specifically including agricultural items.

We recognize the risks involved in current threats to establish quotas or other arbitrarily imposed barriers, in the U.S. or other countries. We believe that inequitable, arbitrary or unilaterally imposed non-tariff barriers represent the greatest present threat to a continued healthy growth in world trade. We urge all possible efforts through GATT or through other avenues to identify, measure and negotiate for reduction of these barriers.

We particularly object to the use of the variable levy system of trade restrictionism as applied by the European Economic Community in contravention of the trade liberalizing aims of GATT. We express strong opposition, too, to non-tariff protectionist barriers unilaterally applied or increased by some nations since the conclusion of the Kennedy Round, including extreme and unfair export subsidies which have been increasingly used by several countries as basic devices for export expansion.

Particularly as a means of protecting U.S. industry groups against the undue losses or sudden dislocations which may result either from unilateral trade policy actions or in some instances from negotiated trade barrier reduction, we urge that provisions for relief under trade policy legislation be liberalized and streamlined for more prompt and equitable relief. We ask, too, that growers of any agricultural commodity used in the manufacture of a commodity involved in such relief proceedings be recognized as a part of that domestic industry.

We commend you and your Committee for conducting extensive hearings on trade policy matters of crucial importance to U.S. agriculture and to our nation.

We would appreciate the inclusion of this statement as a part of the hearings record on H.R. 17551 and other trade bills and issues.

Sincerely,

ROBERT N. HAMPTON,
Director of Marketing and International Trade.

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA,
Washington, D.C., July 12, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR MILLS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Consumer Federation of America is a federation of local, state, regional, and national consumer and consumer-oriented organizations representing millions of Americans. CFA members are both rural and urban people, living in most of the 50 states.

We believe in the farmer's right to produce his crops and livestock and to sell them both here and abroad. We believe in the American businessman's right to make and sell his product both here and overseas. And above all, we believe in the consumer's right to choose both American-made and imported products.

During the past 30 years, America's ability to produce has consistently grown. Our standard of living has consistently improved. Our international trade has consistently expanded. Both business and consumer's have reaped the benefits