Whatever we do to encourage commercial intercourse between and among the free nations of the World, we think the Congress has a continuing responsibility to establish reasonable standards under which competing imports enter our markets—sufficiently well-defined so that competing imports will not undermine our domestic wage standards, our American standard of living, our employment opportunities, our domestic production enterprises, and the internal revenues of the United States.

Here in the United States, our Fair Labor Standards Act is the basic instrument we use to regulate fair competition between and among the States and our outgoing foreign commerce. The level of wages paid to labor in an industrial economy above the subsistence level determines whether that economy is viable or dependent on those who are viable.

The average hourly earnings in twelve foreign countries are as follows:

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS IN UNITED STATES AND IN 12 FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	Date	Average hourly earnings	
		In national currency	In U.S. dollars
United States	1967 average		$2.83
Belgium	March 1967	49.79 Belgium francs (men)	.996
Canada	1967 average	2.37 Canadian dollars	2.192
China (Taiwan)	1966 average	6.36 yuan	.159
France	1967 average	3.39 new francs	.69
Italy	March 1967	419 lira	.67
Japan	1967 average	206.5 yen	.578
Korea	April 1967	6,470 won (monthly)	[1] 23.62
Netherlands	1967 average	3.72 guilders	1.034
Sweden	do	9.30 krona	1.80
Switzerland	1966 average	5.29 Swiss francs (men)	1.223
West Germany	1967 average	4.58 Deutsche marks	1.145
United Kingdom	do	116 pence (men)	1.36

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Conversion rates as of December 1967.

[1] Month.

Among the principal industrial nations of the free world, the United States currently exports only 5.8 percent of its Gross National Product; and, notwithstanding all the efforts and the price which has been paid to achieve increasing exports through tariff reduction and trade agreements, our exports are no larger a percentage of our Gross National Product than they have been over a long period of years as may be seen from the following:

Ratio of exports to gross national product

Year:	*Exports to GNP*	Year—Continued	*Exports to GNP*
1950	4.8	1959	5.2
1951	5.7	1960	5.4
1952	5.2	1961	5.5
1953	4.6	1962	5.4
1954	4.9	1963	5.5
1955	5.0	1964	5.9
1956	5.6	1965	5.7
1957	6.0	1966	5.8
1958	5.2	1967	5.8

Our principal trading partners among the European Economic Community export about 20.5% of their Gross National Product. Using 1965 figures, France exported 10.7% of its GNP, West Germany 15.9%, Italy 12.8%, The Netherlands 34.0%, Belgium and Luxemburg 36.8% and the United Kingdom 13.5% and, in the case of Japan, they exported 10%.

Some significant information was developed by the Trade Relations Council of the United States and presented before the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations on May 13th of this year.

The data revealed that in 1966 there were 144 selected United States industries with a trade deficit.

Of these trade deficit industries, 121 employed 5,234,900 workers with shipments totaling $137,964,400. Imports competitive with these industries totaled $9,528,500, and exports from these industries totaled $2,752,200.