

pensible aspect of social and economic progress. A national resolution to that effect was adopted in 1938 and has been reaffirmed at every biennial convention since then. It states: "The National Council of Jewish Women resolves to urge the United States to support economic development and expansion of economic opportunity throughout the world . . . by continuing to develop trade agreements on a reciprocal basis and by supporting international agreements for the reduction of tariffs and other barriers to the free flow of trade." In accordance with this resolution, we supported the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as an urgently needed revitalization of our trade program designed to give the President the adequate authority to meet the demands of our national interests, as well as those of the free world. Subsequently our members followed with great satisfaction the progress of the Kennedy round negotiations and hailed its successful conclusion as an encouraging milestone in the further liberalization of world trade.

Today, once again, we feel impelled to support fully the proposed Trade Expansion Act of 1968, designed to maintain the President's authority to negotiate trade agreements, establish a viable program of adjustment assistance for firms and workers affected by imports, and promote the reduction and/or elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade. Our Organization wishes to endorse in particular, amendments to the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 which extends the President's negotiating authority for two years; authorize specific appropriations for the U.S. contribution to GATT; liberalize the adjustment assistance eligibility criteria and give the President final determination of eligibility; replace the American Selling Price system of customs valuation by the "cost to the importer" system. We consider all of the above provisions as necessary to ensure the continuing growth of world trade, the welfare of our own national economy and the implementation of the Kennedy Round agreements.

The National Council of Jewish Women, however, is deeply concerned, as are many other segments of the citizenry—government officials, business leaders and private organizations—by the recent wave of demands for protectionist legislation. It is our strong belief that affected industries should be "assisted" when necessary and "encouraged" to compete as many have, in quality and in price, with foreign goods, through the fullest development of their creative and technological potentials, rather than "isolated" by protective barriers. In fact, we believe that if there is to be any protectionism, it should be directed towards protecting the gains achieved in three decades of a liberal trade policy.

Our strong objections to restrictive quotas are dictated not only by the expectation of inevitable retaliatory quotas by other countries, in turn forcing us to adopt further quotas to protect the industries thus affected, but the possibility of a world-wide trade war, with disastrous consequences to both national and foreign economies. Nor do we fear only the deterioration of the U.S. balance of payments if the volume of U.S. trade were to be significantly reduced. Our greatest concern is for the welfare of American citizens on all economic levels.

The National Council of Jewish Women has devoted a great deal of effort, over the years, to the study of the problems of the consumer and the support of pertinent legislation. This is why we are especially sensitive to the adverse effects of protectionist measures on the American Consumer. This is why we cannot condone provisions which would greatly restrict the Consumer freedom of choice in the market place as well as create a domestic market which would not reflect the demands of the purchaser or react to the shifting conditions of supply and demand. Such a market would, of course, result in a rapid increase in price not only of the protected item but on all related industrial products as well. It is not only the consumer seeking quality and choice who would suffer, but also the low-income consumer who would find himself with a greatly diminished purchasing power for basic necessities.

Economists, industrial leaders, and others acknowledge the lessons of history and accept the fact that the imposition of quotas on a substantial scale guarantees increased inflationary pressures. Even a limited system of quotas carries with it the dangers of a chain reaction of retaliation, additional quotas and so on. At a time when our nation and its citizens are so deeply involved in finding ways to alleviate the problems of poverty, it seems most inappropriate and untimely to eliminate the natural restraints of competition on domestic price policies imposed by imports.

On the other hand, our Organization is concerned with the interests and welfare of all segments of our citizenry, and is keenly aware of the problems being