

FOREIGN TRADE AND TARIFF PROPOSALS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in the committee room, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Wilbur D. Mills (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please be in order.

Our first scheduled witness this morning is the Honorable Vance Hartke, our colleague from the Senate.

Senator HARTKE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield my time at this moment and testify after the presentation by the industry and by the union.

The CHAIRMAN. Our colleague from Pennsylvania, the Honorable G. Robert Watkins.

STATEMENT OF HON. G. ROBERT WATKINS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. WATKINS. As a representative of the steel-producing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I share with many of our citizens a growing concern in regard to foreign steel imports.

The fact that last year 1 out of every 8 tons of all steel mill products used in this country came from a foreign source, gives me sufficient reason for concern. The imports of finished steel products into the United States in 1967 rose to 11.5 million tons and represented in excess of 12 percent of the apparent consumption of these products.

And, look at what has been taking place thus far in 1968. The Department of Commerce reports that during the first quarter steel mill product imports amounted to 3.4 million tons—already up 1 million tons over the similar period in 1967.

There is much evidence of the drastic effect steel imports have on our Nation's balance of trade deficit. There also is increasing concern for the serious threat to national security that foreign steel imports could have should they continue to take an ever growing proportion of domestic consumption. It is apparent that in such a case the domestic steel industry may not be able to supply requirements in this country in a time of war.

Yet another aspect of this problem deserves your consideration. I would like to discuss briefly the impact on the economy of the country and of Pennsylvania resulting from domestic production lost to foreign steel imports, using 1967 as an example.