

Mr. HARSHA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Our colleague from Alabama, Mr. Bevill, is our next witness. We appreciate having you with us this morning, and you are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TOM BEVILL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN  
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity of appearing before you today to express my concern over the growing imports of foreign steel into this country.

This trend of importing more and more foreign steel into the United States each year disturbs me greatly. It disturbs me particularly because of the effects excessive imports are already having on our major southern steel-producing areas of Birmingham and Gadsden, Ala. I refer to our Southeastern area, but the same effect can be observed in other steel-producing areas of our Nation.

My home State of Alabama will be severely hit if foreign steel imports overpower our steel industry with cheap steel. Alabama is the South's biggest steelmaking State.

In 1968, imports are expected to amount to 15 million tons. This is a total import increase of one-third over last year. It is obvious that this rapidly rising importation of foreign steel is taking jobs away from American steelworkers. It is obvious that a domestic crisis looms as a distinct reality unless something is done in the very near future.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that we must approach this problem with a sense of urgency. We must stop analyzing the problem; we must stop talking of the dangers involved and get on with some proper action. Legislation is needed to limit the amount of steel which can be imported into the United States.

It is estimated that if the steel that is now being imported from foreign countries were produced in this country, at least 70,000 additional jobs would be available for American steelworkers.

As you well know, we are confronted by cheap foreign labor costs, the increased technology of foreign producers, export incentives and subsidies by most foreign governments and, lastly, by the sheer total of overproduction.

All in all, it seems that overseas production goals apparently are based on visions of unlimited sales to the United States. Much of the intensive competition due to surplus output has prompted foreign mills to sell to us at "bargain basement prices."

Mr. Chairman, I stand for fair competition. Our steel industry consists entirely of private enterprise. But administration policies are affecting the industry adversely. This industry is basic to our national security in war and peace. We must control the excessive imports that are undercutting our steel industry.

I respectfully urge and request that immediate, favorable action be taken on legislation which will establish controls on steel imported into this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions? If not, then thank you Mr. Bevill. Our next witness is from California, our colleague, Mr. Pettis. Proceed, please.