

You will find, Mr. Congressman, that every country of any consequence has a steel industry, and it is doing everything in its power to keep that steel industry healthy and growing. It is also doing everything in its power to see that it is not being withered by a lot of imports into the country.

I think the United States is the only Nation in the world that is not doing something to protect its steel industry from imports, because every other nation realizes that steel is essential to the economy of that nation, essential to the security of that nation.

Its future depends upon this basic material, steel, and it is doing everything it can to see that it has a steel industry. The very fact that every nation which is emerging, the first thing it asks for is a steel industry, indicates that that nation thinks that this is an important element.

I repeat, steel is a basic material on which the economy of this Nation and the economy of every nation and on which the security of this Nation depends and it is unique and should receive, if necessary, special treatment apart from some less important products that might be involved.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Abel, did you have a comment?

Mr. ABEL. I concur completely in everything Mr. Patton said. I could only emphasize what he said.

Mr. ULLMAN. This wouldn't apply, then, to copper?

Mr. ABEL. No, no. It is a different situation entirely. I might say this, Mr. Congressman: In many cases contrary, because a lot of the foreign copper production is owned and controlled by some of the industry right here in this country. This is not true in the basic steel industry.

Mr. ULLMAN. I presume that very little American capital is involved in foreign steel production.

Mr. PATTON. As of the present moment, that is true.

Mr. ULLMAN. Why do you qualify it? Do you see some change?

Mr. PATTON. I don't mean to qualify it. I merely say that it indicates the impracticability of having a large investment in steel abroad. It has been suggested that maybe American steel industries ought to go abroad and put plants in low-cost wage countries. What happens if we do that?

Then you have a material which is coming into the United States destroying the investment of the steel industry in the United States, destroying the jobs of steelworkers in the United States, and giving another source of supply on which this country is going to depend from a foreign source, and if that source is cut off in a time of emergency, we have no steel available to take care of our own requirements.

We in our own company very seriously look at the possibility of investments in other countries in basic steel facilities, and we have concluded that they are not economic and not practical and not in the best interests of our workers or our stockholders, either one.

Mr. ULLMAN. I am a bit intrigued about the argument of the uniqueness of this industry. We are groping for an answer here, as members of this committee. We are besieged by industries that are being severely hurt by imports, and it is very difficult to establish a rationale that would allow us to proceed independently on a bill dealing with a separate industry.