

Mr. PATTON. Mr. Congressman, I fully appreciate your sincerity and your views on countervailing duties, but I must say that we in the steel industry don't think we are going to get relief of the kind we need within the time we need by a case by case by case buildup which takes a trial and an appeal and everything else, and it is just going to be interminable.

Mr. CURTIS. Let me say this: I would be much more inclined to go along with what is requested in the name of being temporary, if I saw a real effort on the part of those who are asking for temporary relief to come in and help develop the movement toward eliminating these various unfair trade practices which, when eliminated, would be the basis for terminating the temporary quota.

But when there isn't this kind of thrust, I begin to wonder how temporary is "temporary." The long-term cotton textile agreement was supposed to be temporary.

We do have experience of the sugar quota that was put on, I think, back in 1938, and we can see the long-range effect of the quota and license approach in this field. So we do have an example to go by on what might occur.

You say that your guideposts are to, in effect, freeze the trade patterns. You use the word "historical trade patterns."

This means that what kind of steel products would come from what country, into what ports, and at what times, and all other factors—all these decisions will be made by bureaucrats, people in the executive branch of the Government.

Mr. PATTON. On the basis of guideposts that are set forth in the bill, you have the historical pattern of the country of origin, the tonnage, the products, and the ports of entry.

Mr. CURTIS. That is why I use the word "freeze." You freeze the trade pattern. What happens to innovation and flexibility when you freeze patterns in this dynamic economy of ours?

Mr. PATTON. I think there is plenty of room for innovation. In the first place, that is just a small percentage of the total steel requirements of the country. We in the steel industry are fighting tooth and nail with each other, not only for the market, but for a recapture, if you please, of the steel that has been lost to foreign competition.

We are fighting with aluminum, with plastics, with all kinds of competitive materials. I think there is plenty of room for innovation, and it will come.

Mr. CURTIS. I agree that there is this kind of innovation. In fact, in many respects, I think a great deal of the problems in steel come from these other kinds of competition although I don't want to minimize the problems that exist in this trade area, because I do happen to believe there has been a great deal of unfair trade practices going on in your industry.

I think there is over-production, and I think a lot of this has come about through the Government's intervening in the market place.

What I do urge this industry and others to recognize is that when you come to the Government for protection in this fashion, you are giving great powers to the Government to freeze the marketplace in certain ways, and it will also interpret the guide posts.

We try to write guideposts, and if we do pass this legislation, I will do whatever I can to be sure that the guideposts are as clear as we