

V. Price comparisons

1. Rods—U.S.A. published price.
 - A. Industrial quality $\frac{5}{16}$ and over, approximately \$56.00/T over foreign.
 - B. Common Quality, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{7}{32}$, $\frac{5}{16}$, C-1008 only, approximately \$16.00/T over foreign.
 - C. High Carbon, approximately \$30.00/T over foreign.

VI. Wire and wire products prices

	Foreign price per ton	Competitive domestic price per ton
1. Bright basic wire in coils.....	\$130.00	\$146.00
2. Galvanized wire ¹	148.00	178.00
3. Welded fabric (6 by 6 10/10).....	138.00	140.20
4. Baling wire.....	158.60	174.00
5. Vineyard wire.....	138.00	185.00
6. Spring wire.....	170.00	176.00
7. Bale ties.....	212.20	217.40
8. Florist wire.....	342.00	358.60
9. Black annealed wire.....	132.00-140.00	186.00

¹ 9 to 12 gage.

VII. The greatest problem facing us today

1. If restrictions or levies were to be imposed on hot rolled wire rods it would make it possible for the integrated steel producers who produce hot rolled wire rods, as well as wire and wire products, to effectively squeeze ourselves and other independent wire producers. The market price of wire rods could be increased substantially while finished wire and wire products would remain the same or, in some cases, be decreased to a point which might possibly force the non-integrated wire producers out of business.

2. The quality of the domestic rod available to us would have an effect on our overall cost of operation due to the fact that some foreign sources produce a higher quality of rod which results in a lower operating cost to us.

VIII. One solution to the impact that foreign steel has had on our economy might be as follows

1. To impose a levy or allocate imports on only finished steel products and maintain the same duty which now exists on semi-finished steel products which would require further processing and manufacturing in the United States to become a finished steel product.

2. If other countries continue to discriminate by charging higher duties and tariffs for our goods shipped into their country than we charge for their goods coming into this country and we cannot reach an agreeable settlement with that nation on tariffs, then we would have possibly two alternatives: (1) Increase the tariffs to the same level that they have on our goods (2) Through tax concessions or other means provide ways and means for American industry to offset these duties in order to compete in their market.

FIRTH CLEVELAND STEELS, INC.,
New York, N.Y., May 23, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLS: I am informed that the House Committee on Ways and Means will open hearings on June 4th in regard to import quotas.

I would like to go on record that we are opposed to any quota and or other restrictions which would obviously result in retaliation by our trading partners abroad.

Our country has for many years enjoyed a favorable trade balance and I am very much concerned that the result of any import quota would be to bring about drastic measures from abroad to reduce the current U.S.A. export business.