Data on domestic production of comparable articles of man-made fiber are unfortunately not available, but it is our opinion that imports in this classification are now not far behind domestic production and at the present rate of increase are likely to exceed it next year and would thus represent over half the domestic consumption.

It is not necessary to multiply instances demonstrating the extent of the import invasion in different parts of the knitwear market. If the same effects have not yet been apparent in other classifications of knitwear that we have observed in the foregoing cases, it is not because foreign producers lack the capacity to enter those other areas of our market. They clearly possess the same advantage of labor cost in knitwear of all types and fibers. But, as stated above, they cannot as yet invade on all fronts at the same time. Given time for further expansion, they can surely capture other sectors of our market with the same detrimental effects upon domestic production as in the case of women's sweaters.

On the basis of the data submitted here, the Committee may itself project how much more of the knitted outerwear market will be occupied by imports by 1970 and thereafter. If the forces presently at work continue to operate freely and without the intervention of any new restraining action on the part of the government, it cannot be reasonably doubted that U.S. sweater production will continue to decline in absolute terms, and surely in relationship to mounting imports. It is not necessary to pretend to such precision in clairvoyancy as to fix the exact percentage which domestic sweater production will represent to total consumption in three or four years. But in view of all the evidence before us it is so overwhelmingly probable as to leave no room for reasonable doubt that imports of sweaters will continue to rise, that domestic production will continue to decline, and that sweaters made in the United States will supply less than half the total domestic demand for such knitwear by 1970. In the case of women's sweaters it will probably be no more than 40%, and the balance will be imports. In the case of knitted outerwear shirts of man-made fiber, the rate of increase in imports is such that within the next year or two imports may, as stated above, constitute more than half of the total supply.

In those specific areas where our foreign rivals have already invaded in force, their take-over will be more complete in the next few years than in the newer areas which they are presently only prospecting. But there is no apparent reason why their rate of growth in those newer sectors should not be as swift as it has been in those we have examined above.

To estimate on an over-all basis the future imports of all knitted outerwear of all fibers measured in pounds, it may be noted from Table 1 that the average increase from year to year in the past decade has been 29%. That is the margin by which the total for each year rose over the total for the preceding year. On the basis of an annual increase of 29% we may project the following import trend during the next five years:

TABLE 11.—*Projection of imports of knitted outerwear in all fibers*

[Quantity in millions of pounds]

Year	*Total imports*
1967	64
1968	83
1969	107
1970	138
1971	178

In contrast, the total domestic production of knitted outerwear, as shown in Appendix E, rose by 6% between 1965 and 1966 and declined by about 4% between 1966 and 1967. (Figures prior to 1965 are not directly comparable for statistical reasons explained in the note to Appendix E.) But prognostication need not be pressed to the point of absurd exactitude. Even if we assume a modest increase—though on the basis of what we have seen in the case of sweaters a further decline is more probable, total imports by 1971 will rise from 17.7% of consumption in the previous year to something between 30 and 40% in three to five years. And this, be it noted, is an average for a great variety of classifications, some of which are likely to approach liquidation and their future contribution will be minor.

We expect that in discussing the future import trends you will hear a great deal from the import interests about inherent factors which will come into play to retard the future rise of imports. But are there any built-in factors that should arrest this projected trend? If there are, nothing of the sort has manifested itself