4. Conclusion

It is the belief of the Floor Covering Group that a careful examination makes clear that rug and carpet imports do not pose a significant threat to the dynamic and growing floor covering industry. The United States has the strongest, largest, and most efficient carpet industry in the world. Through automation and mass production techniques it has conquered the problem of high labor costs. By creating new and ever better products and by developing more efficient marketing techniques it has opened up expanding markets, and the end is not in sight.

Imports consist almost entirely of novelty items which are not manufactured in this country in significant quantities, along with a few low-priced items which are sold primarily to families with very limited incomes. On a quantitative basis, imports take up 4.3 percent of the market; on a value basis they take up only 3.4 percent of the market.

Mr. Chairman, while the Floor Covering Group believes that no quantitative import restrictions should be imposed on any textile and apparel articles, my organization feels strongly that in your determinations concerning the textile and apparel industry, you should first exclude the carpet and rug industry. For whatever problems may exist regarding the domestic textile and apparel industry, they simply are not present when a careful examination of carpet and rug production in the United States is made.

Appendix A

[From the Home Furnishings Daily, Aug. 24, 1967]

Boom Puts the Bloom on Tufters

(By Ron Gunter)

Dalton, Ga.—Booming business and rising prices characterize the floor covering manufacturing scene in this tufting capital.

Carpet manufacturers here are raising prices on certain lines following recent price hikes in nylon carpet yarns by major producers.

And they are also witnessing booming business—and predicting that the fall season will be one of the best despite (or because?) of prices in fibers now on the upswing.

M. B. Seretain, president, Coronet Industries, Inc., said. "We will raise our prices immediately to reflect the price increases on continuous filament nylon. We're still studying other prices in our line."

Peter R. Spirer, general manager, Painter Carpet Mills, noted, "We are taking a look at our revised costs based on the increased fiber price coupled with increased labor costs and operating cost with an eye toward coming out with new selling prices within the next week or ten days.

"Although not all carpets will be affected to the same degree," he pointed out, "all products which we make have been subject to increased costs and we anticipate the price rise will be of a general nature, although varying in amounts."

The higher prices in nylon were confirmed Monday when Du Pont made its announcement. It increased prices on all bulked continuous filament nylon carpet yarns: Antron, cationic cross-dye yarn, three types of BCF styling yarns (light, medium and dark) and also color-sealed solution-dyed black yarns.

The upswing of nylon yarn prices was triggered a week ago by American Enka, Allied Chemical and Monsanto. When Du Pont made its move, carpet executive could no longer play it cool, and had to reevaluate all existing price levels immediately.

Paul Kamens, president, Imperial Carpet Mills, Inc., commented: "August has been the best month we have had since we started in the business. And we look forward to a very strong fall even with our across-the-board increases on all continuous filament nylon numbers." Mr. Kamens did not give specific details.

I. V. Chandler, president, Patcraft Carpet Mills, said: "Our business for the past 30 days has been the best we've had in the past 18 months. And I feel the price increases on continuous filament nylon will make for a healthier market. We're looking forward to an excellent fall."