Marshall Plan went into effect and the company found that it was impossible to compete with France and Italy which went into the same foreign markets and purchased sheepskins for pulling in their own countries. In the early 50's the company was able to import occasional lots of sheepskins for pulling purposes, only because of foreign country exporters requiring dollars. However, this has not been the case since 1954.

There has been a steadily declining production of sheepskins in this country. Major producers have been going out of business and growers are finding it very difficult to obtain the necessary labor to care for their flocks. This, of course, has created a condition where there are not enough sheepskins to meet demand.

The United States is aware of the necessity of importing sheepskins because in the recent tariff reductions wooled sheepskins are included, but the insignificant reduction in tariff allowed wooled sheepskins is not sufficient to make it possible to import this commodity into the United States.

An example of the impossibility of importing foreign sheepskins because of the duty on sheepskins occurred within the past few days when Morris Fishman & Sons was in foreign sheepskins. Until that time the company imported sheepskins had not had to pay the duty it would have been possible for the company to buy the lot.

For the reasons stated, Morris Fishman & Sons, respectfully urges the House Ways and Means Committee to recommend to the Congress legislation which will eliminate the import duty on foreign sheepskins.

Morris Fishman & Sons makes its request of the House Ways and Means Committee to enable it and other wool pullers to import raw materials so that American labor can have the opportunity of employment to produce end products which are most necessary not only to our ever expanding civilian population, but also to the National Defense of this country.

(Whereupon, at 7:10 p.m., the committee adjourned, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Friday, June 21, 1968.)

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