Mr. BURKE. Thank you, Mr. Tilden. Are there any questions?

Thank you. We appreciate your testimony.

Mr. TILDEN. Thank you.

Mr. BURKE. Is Mr. Myron Solter here?

Mr. Solter, you are recognized for 10 minutes, and if you wish to summarize your statement your entire statement will appear in the record. If you will please identify yourself for the record you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF MYRON SOLTER, SAFETY PIN AND STRAIGHT PIN DIVISION, PIN, CLIP, & FASTENER ASSOCIATION

Mr. SOLTER. Mr. Chairman, my name is Myron Solter. I am a lawyer in Washington and I appear before the committee today on behalf of the Safety Pin and Straight Pin Divisions of the Pin, Clip & Fastener Association and, as you have indicated, Mr. Chairman, I would request that my prepared statement in full be incorporated in the record.

Mr. BURKE. All right.

Mr. SOLTER. I will only summarize the points of the statement orally for the committee.

The safety pin and straight pin industries appreciate very much this opportunity to express to the committee the industry's most serious concern, and we do stress "most serious."

During the period 1951–55 imports of safety pins amounted on the average to 21 percent of total apparent consumption in the United States. During 1967 imports accounted for 35 percent of total apparent consumption of safety pins in the United States.

Even more striking, straight pins during 1951–55 imports accounted for 12 percent of total apparent consumption. During 1967 the participation of imports of straight pins and total consumption had risen to 42 percent.

The total consumption of pins, both safety pins and straight pins, in the United States has remained relatively static during the past 20 years. The increase in imports has cut directly into the market of the domestic industry. It is not evident from the bare statistics, but I need not belabor to this committee the fact of increased industrial costs over the last 15 years or so.

The industry is in a very difficult cost-price squeeze in consequence of the gradually intensifying import competition which has held price levels virtually constant over the past 12 years in the United States.

Thus, the problem is not whether the pin industry in the United States faces extinction. That is virtually a certainty at some point in the future. The problem is what, if anything, as a matter of public policy, to do about it; that is, whether industries such as the pin industry in this country should be allowed to be extinguished by imports as a matter of public policy or whether a line should be drawn somewhere short of extinction.

We are sure, and I think we may all be sure, that none of our major trading partners will suffer destruction of any significant industries in their territories by exports from the United States. We believe that it is time to realize that the same policy of self-interest should be pur-