

whereby the shaft serves as the inner race. Such bearings are widely used in automobiles, home appliances, and pumps. They are an important product of this industry and are made and sold in volume. Recently, domestic sales of these bearings declined precipitously because consumers were buying low price imported integral shaft bearings. Since it was apparent to the industry that foreign suppliers were quoting prices, which were below costs, when the applicable duty was considered, a study was made. The study revealed that Customs Officials were classifying these bearings as parts of automobiles at a duty far less than that applicable to bearings. More importantly, by not entering as bearings, the U. S. import statistics on bearings materially understated the true volume of bearing imports. While the industry, with Congressional assistance, succeeded in obtaining a proper classification of these items, similar problems still exist. The domestic producers are now attempting in H.R. 12264 to insure correct classification of another group of bearings (mounted bearings) which are otherwise classified in the Tariff Schedules or not specifically provided for therein.

In regard to H.R. 12264, the domestic industry has again been handicapped by the absence of reliable data. In fact, to gain a true insight into the volume of imports of mounted bearings, the industry has been compelled to buy data by financing special studies by the Department of Commerce.