

APPENDIX C

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C., December 6, 1966.

HON. FARRIS BRYANT,
Director, Office of Emergency Planning,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR GOVERNOR BRYANT: Thank you for your letter of November 8, 1966, asking for our reaction to allegations made by counsel to the Anti-Friction Bearing Manufacturers Association about the inadequacy of import statistics available for antifriction bearings.

The application by the Association for an investigation of imports stated that certain types of bearings were being imported in such quantities as to threaten to impair the national security. In our attempt to make a determination of the validity of the industry's claims, we were hampered by the lack of detailed import figures.

Most antifriction bearings are dutiable at 3.4 cents per pound and 15 percent ad valorem. It is therefore necessary only to have data on the weight and value of imports for tariff purposes, and this information has heretofore been adequate for industry and governmental statistical needs. We make every effort to have import, export, and Census of Manufacturers' figures for bearings, as well as other commodities, reported in such a manner as to provide comparability. Beyond that we cannot always anticipate the need for import information for specific sizes and types of the more than 5,000 categories in the Tariff Schedules, and the gathering of such data would create a heavy administrative burden of very questionable value. Procedures for spot checking of invoices or auditing of entry papers through the cooperation of the Tariff Commission, the Bureau of Customs, and the Bureau of the Census are available on an *ad hoc* basis when more detailed information is needed. In our investigation of bearing imports, however, we found that these procedures were not useful in assessing the impact of imports in the limited sizes and types under consideration.

In a matter such as this where the national security is involved, the seriousness of this lack of information cannot be overlooked. The Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules at the Tariff Commission has overall responsibility for reviewing statistical data and making changes when justified, upon application by interested parties. The Anti-Friction Bearing Manufacturers Association has made such application, and I understand that the Committee is studying the need for changes in the bearing classifications, as well as the feasibility of implementing any changes. Members of the responsible industry division in the Business and Defense Services Administration are working with the Committee, and I hope that a suitable solution can be found so that more meaningful data can be provided for future use.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN T. CONNOR,
Secretary of Commerce.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING,
Washington, D.C., February 14, 1968.

HON. ALEXANDER B. TROWBRIDGE,
Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: On November 8, 1966, former Director of the Office of Emergency Planning Farris Bryant, wrote to the Secretary of Commerce, Honorable John T. Connor, regarding allegations made by the antifriction bearing industry of the inadequate and virtually useless current statistical data on imports of bearings. Mr. Bryant asked for the Department's reaction to such allegations.

On December 6, 1966, the Secretary replied that the Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules, which has the overall responsibility for reviewing statistical data and making changes when justified, is studying the need for changes in the bearing classifications, as well as the feasibility of implementing any changes. The Secretary added that staff members of the Department of