

IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION—SCISSORS AND SHEARS

	Quantity (pairs)	Value
1963.....	9, 986, 907	\$3, 708, 054
1964.....	10, 319, 828	3, 846, 582
1965.....	11, 420, 141	4, 220, 236
1966.....	12, 857, 003	4, 775, 651
1967.....	15, 097, 759	5, 653, 493

As noted earlier in this statement, these Government statistics do not include all of the imports. The scissors and shears imported in manicure, sewing and similar sets in cases are not separately tabulated and reported by quantity by the Bureau of the Census. The foreign value of these imports have been in excess of three million dollars during each of the past three years. Also, large quantities of scissors and shears are exported by foreign producers direct to individuals in the United States as premiums in connection with the promotion of domestic consumer products. These individual shipments are valued at less than one dollar per shipment and are not subject to import duties and are not recorded in United States import statistics.

There should be no question that it is in the national interest to restrict imports of scissors and shears to a reasonable level. This would be done by enactment of the Orderly Scissors and Shears Marketing Act. (The members of the Shears, Scissors and Manicure Implement Manufacturers Association have never suggested that there be no imports but only that they have a fair competitive opportunity, but not an advantage in the domestic market.)

Last year the United States in effect imported over three million man-hours of labor by importing 15 million pairs of scissors and shears. This runs counter to the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders that include the creation of two million new ghetto jobs. A number of jobs in the manufacture of scissors and shears can be done by unskilled workers with a minimum of training.

The imports of scissors and shears valued well over five million dollars per year only aggravate our grave balance of payments problem. Each pair of scissors or shears imported means one less pair will be manufactured by United States plants, financed with private capital and paying taxes to the United States Government.

However, the importance of our industry cannot be measured just by the value of output, taxes paid and employment provided. These are all important considerations but more important is the value of our industry to the safety and general welfare of the United States. Scissors and shears are essential tools used in every major industry in the United States. Their use is obvious in the manufacture of many products such as textiles, shoes, and rubber goods. They are also used by the plastic, aircraft automotive and electronics industries all of which produce defense items. These industries have put scissors and shears to unusual uses, for example, pinking shears were used for cutting cloth used in covering liaison planes and embroidery scissors were used by the electronics industry. Shears are included in tent repair kits and bandage scissors in first-aid kits used by the military.

The United States should not be required to depend on foreign producers to supply these important items. But with the trends of the past 18 years, if some emergency cut off imports, it is questionable whether there would be sufficient equipment and skilled workers available to produce our military and essential civilian requirement of scissors and shears.

There can be no question that there can be further expansion of trade among industrialized and developing countries without sacrificing established industries in any country. The United States foreign trade policy must not subvert our national goals. It must provide for strong domestic industries that are producing essential products. The answer is not a policy to "buy out" producers of high labor content products but a policy under which foreign and domestic producers can supply the market together. A sound approach to such a policy is provided in the Orderly Scissors and Shears Marketing Act. We urge its enactment.

Thank you.