

The sporting goods manufacturers of American should be classified as an essential industry. Their products are used in physical education classes at the elementary, high school, and college level. Organized playground and team activities provide a healthy outlet for youthful energy, with participants gaining physical strength, competitive spirit, and leadership characteristics. Integration becomes an accepted way of life—not a problem.

Athletic equipment is also needed by the armed services for recreational and physical fitness programs. Add to this the need for relaxation, and healthful pursuit of sports activity after retirement age, and you must agree that athletic equipment plays an important role in our society.

We cannot maintain a strong industry unless some assurance of a restraint on imports can be provided through establishment of quotas based on 1967 statistics. In addition to lines covered in this presentation, there have also been losses of employment due to a significant volume of imports in the following products:

Badminton rackets, tennis balls, track shoes, football shoes, and soccer shoes.

Judging from past history, it is reasonable to believe that the annual growth of imports will adversely affect other lines unless quotas are established, based on total imports of all sporting goods equipment in 1967.

We respectfully solicit your support of this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, we greatly appreciate this opportunity of appearing before you.

(The briefs referred to follow:)

IMPACT OF IMPORTS ON DOMESTIC INDUSTRY—BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL GLOVES AND MITTS

Imports of these products which were negligible in 1956 increased substantially each year, until in 1965, approximately 70% of all the baseball and softball gloves and mitts sold in the United States were actually manufactured in Japan. During this period, some domestic producers were forced out of business, and all others drastically curtailed production in line with reduced sales.

The following table clearly shows a historical picture of annual losses to American industry resulting from uncontrolled foreign invasion:

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL GLOVES AND MITTS: SALES BY DOMESTIC PRODUCERS, IMPORTS, AND APPARENT CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1956-65

Year	Sales by domestic producer (in thousands)	Imports (in thousands)	Apparent consumption ¹ (in thousands)	Ratio (percent) of imports to—	
				Apparent consumption	Sales by domestic producers
1956.....	3,314	(²)	3,314	-----	-----
1957.....	3,371	149	3,520	4.2	4.4
1958.....	3,226	533	3,759	14.2	16.5
1959.....	2,957	1,271	4,228	30.1	43.0
1960.....	2,685	2,412	5,097	47.3	89.8
1961.....	2,313	2,800	5,113	54.8	121.0
1962.....	2,207	3,102	5,309	58.4	140.6
1963.....	1,965	3,012	4,977	60.5	153.3
1964 ³	1,512	2,738	4,250	64.4	181.1
1965 ³	1,028	3,481	4,509	69.9	338.6

¹ No allowance is made for U.S. exports, which are small.

² Not available. Imports are known to have been smaller in 1956 than in 1957.

³ Sales by domestic producers taken from Athletic Goods Manufacturers Association Annual Census Report prepared by Ernst & Ernst.

Source: Sales, 1956-60—U.S. Tariff Commission report of May 1961. Sales, 1961-63—Estimated based on sales reported by producers believed to account for 95 percent of total U.S. output. Imports, 1957-59—Estimated by Tariff Commission on the basis of a special analysis of entry papers prepared by the Bureau of the Census. Imports, 1960-65—From official statistics of U.S. Department of Commerce.