

On February 21 and 23, 1961, the U.S. Tariff Commission held public hearings under section 7 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951, as amended, to determine whether baseball and softball gloves, including mitts, classifiable under paragraph 1502 of the Tariff Act of 1930 are, as a result in whole or in part of the customs treatment reflecting the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, being imported into the United States in such increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products.

Our industry presented testimony which conclusively proved serious injury had already been sustained and on May 1, 1961, the Tariff Commission reported to the President and recommended that the existing 15 per cent duty on baseball gloves and mitts be increased to a duty of 30 per cent ad valorem. Commissioners Schreiber and Sutton did not concur with this recommendation as they felt it did not go far enough in providing badly needed relief to a suffering industry. They recommended an increase of duty to 45 per cent ad valorem.

On March 19, 1962, the President turned down the Tariff Commission recommendation. The President indicated that he was relying at least partially on the 1.9 million voluntary quota that Japan had established, in denying a tariff increase to the domestic industry.

The self-imposed voluntary quota set by Japan in 1961 was established to mollify those favoring a tariff increase and quota on baseball gloves. In later years, they unilaterally increased the original "quota" but their failure to honor this commitment can best be determined by reviewing the facts:

JAPANESE IMPORTS OF BASEBALL GLOVES TO THE UNITED STATES AS COMPARED WITH ANNOUNCED VOLUNTARY QUOTA

Quota year	Announced quota	Actual imports from Japan
	(millions of units)	(millions of units)
Apr. 1, 1961 to Mar. 31, 1962.....	1.9	2.8
Apr. 1, 1962 to Mar. 31, 1963.....	2.1	3.2
Apr. 1, 1963 to Mar. 31, 1964.....	2.3	2.8
Apr. 1, 1964 to Mar. 31, 1965.....	2.5	2.7
Apr. 1, 1965 to Mar. 31, 1966.....	2.5	3.7

Source: Imports, official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Japanese voluntary quota from foreign service dispatch No. 166, Kobe, Mar. 2, 1962, and Department of State Airgram Kobe, Nov. 7, 1963.

We feel that the Japanese should be brought to account for this misrepresentation and be compelled to comply with the original 1.9 million quota on which the President relied and which they have never honored.

Imports—almost entirely from Japan—have skyrocketed from practically zero in 1956 to a current rate of about 3.5 million annually. In the same period of time domestic sales have declined from 3.3 million units to slightly over 1 million. Some domestic manufacturers have gone completely out of the glove and mitt business, and those still in existence are operating at a greatly curtailed level.

Employment is at an all-time low and the future looks pretty bleak for those still working. It appears inevitable that they, too, will eventually share the fate of hundreds of other glove and mitt workers whose jobs have already been lost to foreign products.

Industries supplying glove and mitt manufacturers have also suffered. One of the principal suppliers of leather, a Chicago tanner, saw his labor force drop from over 200 employees to under 100. His experience has been shared by other tanneries in different parts of the country.

The Japanese are able to buy hides in the United States (they estimate that 80 per cent of their hides are of U.S. origin), tan the hides into leather, make gloves out of the leather, ship the gloves back to the U.S. and still undersell the U.S. product by at least 50%. Two years ago, in testimony presented to the Trade Information Committee, we disclosed an average rate per hour of production employees in a U.S. tannery of \$2.34 to which 60¢ per hour had to be added to cover fringe benefits including paid holidays, vacations, hospitalization, insurance and pensions.

Tannery workers in Japan are reported to earn less than 25¢ per hour for a 70 hour week.