

Suppliers of binding, welts, laces, jute and wool padding used in the manufacture of baseball gloves and mitts have also suffered. Employment has dropped continuously for ten years and the remaining industry could expire unless help is received.

The feeling of futility that has existed in the glove and mitt industry can best be shown by quoting from a letter sent in response to a request for information from Mr. James D. Williams, an attorney representing us in our appearance before the U.S. Tariff Commission in 1964, to J. A. Dubow Sporting Goods Corp. This concern, one of the oldest in the business, had taken a very active part in proceedings before the Tariff Commission in May, 1961. Their letter reads as follows:

"The Japanese have put us out of business.

"I have neither the time nor the inclination nor do I wish to spend the money to have a man dig into our past records to come up with all the information required in this brief.

"All the people that worked for us in baseball gloves are gone. This was approximately 90 employees who had been with us anywhere from 15 to 40 years.

"I wish you luck and hope you can win your case. However, I believe it is strictly a case of drop dead and hope your next life will be better."

In addition to jobs lost within the continental United States, there have also been severe losses in Puerto Rico. The largest baseball glove and mitt producer in that country was forced to close down because it could no longer compete with Japanese made products. The U.S. concern owning this facility tried desperately to continue supplying Sears Roebuck with American made products, but even the relatively low labor rates in Puerto Rico could not compete with the almost unbelievable pay received by cottage industry workers in Japan, where most of the import gloves are made. This one plant in Puerto Rico released 273 employees, and others in a Ponce tannery were also affected.

Domestic manufacturers are firm believers in the necessity of promoting economic health throughout the world. We are in sympathy with the motives and the goals for economic development for the underprivileged people of the world, which has been the guiding influence of our foreign policy. We honestly feel, however, that in our particular industry, the pendulum has been swung too far. American industry is not prepared to meet foreign competition on an equal basis because of the great difference in wages and our standards of living. We have just cause for complaint, and intend to continue fighting for our existence. We cannot stand idly by and see hundreds of jobs for American workers eliminated while importers bring in Japanese made baseball gloves and mitts to be used by American boys in playing the American game of baseball.

ATHLETIC GOODS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION,
By: W. P. HOLMES,
President, Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

IMPACT OF IMPORTS ON DOMESTIC INDUSTRY TENNIS RACKETS

My testimony today is the story of an industry trying desperately, but unsuccessfully, to survive in the face of constantly increasing import competition. The story goes back many years, but I will start by testimony from July 28, 1960. On this date I had been requested to represent the tennis racket manufacturers before the Tariff Commission in the "peril point" investigation on tennis rackets being held at that time because tennis rackets appeared in paragraph 1502 as one of the products to be considered for possible further United States tariff reduction under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

I will quote from my statement to the Tariff Commission at that time, "A flood of imports on tennis rackets from low wage paying foreign countries is slowly strangling our domestic industry. In 1951, approximately 27 per cent of the tennis rackets sold in this country were imported. In 1959, 59 per cent were imported—an increase of over 100 per cent in nine years."

"The main cause of inability of domestic manufacturers to compete with foreign manufacturers is the vast difference in factory wages. For example, factory wages in this country are more than 600 per cent higher than factory wages in Japan, which is the major foreign supplier. Our factory wages are far higher than any other country producing tennis rackets. Because of the relatively high