

Acting on the recommendation of his trade advisors and contrary to the majority finding of the Tariff Commission, the President rescinded the quota effective October 11, 1967. As we had predicted, a deluge of imports started almost immediately. Imports from Japan in the first quarter of 1968 were more than triple those of the same period last year.

This is occurring just at the time when some of our industry are endeavoring to train and provide jobs for the hard-core unemployed under the program assigned Mr. Ford's committee by the President. It could well be we are building false hopes in those we seek to help, for it now appears likely there will be no jobs available when the training is completed.

We submit that a trade policy which reduces an industry that was the world's largest manufacture of table flatware to the second largest is bad enough, even though it may be rationalized as that industry's contribution to the furtherance of international trade. However, a trade policy which bids fair to force that industry completely out of business is not only uneconomic, it is un-American. No amount of vague conversation and grandiose generalities about how many export opportunities are being benefited by it can justify such a policy.

In conclusion, it is our belief that if a sound and equitable trade policy is to emerge in the United States it will come only when the Congress once again assumes its full responsibilities under the Constitution. H.R. 17551 is certainly not the answer, for it continues to delegate much of that responsibility.

Obviously, if any of the orderly marketing bills now before this committee are to be enacted, we believe H.R. 12988, which would restore the tariff quota on imports of stainless steel flatware should also be enacted. However, we believe the far wiser course, after the forementioned study is completed, would be for the Congress to enact new trade legislation sufficiently broad as to insure an equitable sharing of the U.S. market between all domestic and foreign made products.

We commend to the committee's further attention the statement of the Trade Relations Council on June 13, 1968, suggesting a fundamental change in basic U.S. law pertaining to the criteria for future tariff negotiations and tariff adjustments.

Thank you very much, sir.

(Mr. Hemingway's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF STUART C. HEMINGWAY, JR., STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman, I make this statement on behalf of the Stainless Steel Flatware Manufacturers Association, a national trade association made up of ten domestic producers of stainless steel table flatware, who account for approximately 85% of domestic production of these articles.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, there seems no question that the philosophy of international trade is extremely complex. In the short time allotted for my oral statement, I will not presume to submit any all-encompassing proposal to establish a new frontier in this area. However, as some of you know, the U.S. stainless steel flatware industry has had such an intimate relationship with our trade policies over the past many years that I feel the following comments on past practices and suggestions of what we consider to be a realistic approach to future legislation are worthy of your consideration.

Before making these comments, however, I request the record show that our industry is opposed to HR #17551. We ask that it be tabled and no new trade legislation be enacted prior to completion of the thorough and detailed review