

branch of Government in the administration of trade policy. We think this is extremely important, and we urge that, under the provisions of such an Executive order, a system of industry advisers be established along the general lines recommended in our brief, which was drawn from our experience during the Kennedy round negotiations, so that we can, in effect, establish a meaningful relationship between industry and Government that will help assure wise decisions and will provide the coordination and cooperation necessary to that effect; namely, a limited number of such advisers organized on a sector concept and appointed on an official basis to participate with Government on trade policy and to participate as advisers to Government in trade negotiations.

The last point I would like to comment on in my presentation is on the subject of adjustment assistance to industry. We urge that in the new trade bill a provision be added to provide for adjustment assistance to industry in the form of tariff adjustments. We think it is not likely that trade negotiations concluded in 1967 on the basis of 1964 trade data can supply in all cases wise answers to what the competitive situation will be in 1972 when the Kennedy round is fully implemented. We think, therefore, that for those sectors of industry particularly sensitive to import competition, adjustment assistance in the form of tariff relief is essential. One of the sectors of the plastics industry which is sensitive to such imports in the button division, and here to speak for that industry is Mr. Gilbert Richman.

(Mr. Christopher's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM F. CHRISTOPHER, CHAIRMAN, TARIFF COMMITTEE, THE
SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, INC.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is William F. Christopher. I am Director of Marketing for Hooker Chemical Corporation whose main offices are located at 277 Park Avenue, New York City. I am also Chairman of the Tariff Committee of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. In that capacity, I am pleased to have the opportunity to file this statement as a means of presenting the Society's views on the general subject of the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations. It is my intention not only to comment on proposals recently transmitted to the Congress by the administration but to identify some of the major problems areas which we believe require further study and attention as well as to offer a number of specific recommendations for your consideration.

By way of introduction, The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) is a corporation organized under the Membership Corporation Laws of the State of New York. The Society's functions are to assemble and disseminate scientific, engineering, and general information data on plastics; to cooperate with the military and allied departments of the United States Government in the furtherance of its plastics projects; to act as an authoritative central forum for its member companies, and to promote actively and advance the application and use of plastics through greater public acceptance and favorable recognition of plastics products. SPI is composed of approximately 2,500 member companies and individuals who supply raw materials; process or manufacture plastics or plastics products; engineer or construct molds or similar accessory equipment for the plastics industry; and engage in the manufacture of machinery used to make plastics products or materials of all types. The Society is the major national trade association of the plastics industry, its membership being responsible for an estimated 85 to 90 percent of the total dollar volume of sales of plastics in this country.

The Tariff Committee is a standing committee of the Society whose function it is to consider, investigate, make recommendations, and take action on the industry's behalf with regard to tariff and trade matters generally. One of the