

without a handle. The umbrella, of course, is a frame covered with water repellent textile or plastic material, with a handle mounted on the shaft.

It is important to keep the classes of the Product in mind because imports consist of frames, bases and completed umbrellas.

The reason bases are imported is that first—they ship more readily (the multi shapes of handles creates packaging problems) and second—they make for more flexibility in inventories.

THE INDUSTRY

In 1954 there were eight (8) companies engaged in the business of manufacturing umbrella frames, namely:

S. W. Evans & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa.

Fretz, Gross & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Newark Rivet Works, Newark, New Jersey.

Arlington Frames, Inc., Newark, New Jersey.

American Folding Umbrella Co., New York, New York.

Newark Umbrella Frame Co., Newark, New Jersey.

Cross Umbrella Frame Co., New York, New York.

Finkel Umbrella Frame Co., Inc., New York, New York.

Today, 14 years later, the Industry consists of the following companies:

S. W. Evans & Sons

Newark Umbrella Frame Co.

Finkel Umbrella Frame Co., Inc.

The Industry attributes this attrition in its number to the impact of imports of umbrella frames and umbrellas from foreign countries—notably Japan and more recently Hong Kong. The number of manufacturers of umbrella frames has diminished by 62½%.

EMPLOYMENT

In 1954 the Industry employed approximately 2,500 persons of whom approximately 25% were skilled labor, 50% semi-skilled and 25% unskilled but trained labor. Today it is estimated that less than 500 persons are employed by the Industry, a reduction of approximately 80%.

THE MARKET

The umbrella manufacturers, in addition to buying frames from the domestic frame makers and converting such frames to umbrellas, also import bases and umbrellas as well as frames. They finish the imported frames and bases and market the finished products together with finished imported umbrellas and domestic made umbrellas.

The only market that the umbrella frame manufacturer has today is that market represented by the American umbrella manufacturer. In 1954 there were approximately 100 umbrella manufacturers in the United States.

Today there are less than 35 manufacturers—a reduction of approximately 65%.

In 1954 the umbrella frame manufacturers enjoyed markets all over the world. They sold their frames in the Philippines, India, South America, Mexico, Canada and other countries. Now only a small part of the Canadian business is retained—the rest of the foreign market has been lost to Japan and other Far East producers on the basis of much lower prices.

HISTORY OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE UMBRELLA FRAME INDUSTRY TO OBTAIN RELIEF FROM RUINOUS IMPORTS OF UMBRELLA FRAMES AND UMBRELLAS, OCTOBER 1954

The Industry presented views in writing to the Committee for Reciprocity Information of the House of Representatives. In this hearing the frame companies urged that the date after which Article 28 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade might be invoked should not be postponed and further that concessions made by the U.S. to various foreign countries with respect to the duties upon umbrella frames and umbrella parts be withdrawn. This effort was not successful.

1957

In 1957 the Industry initiated a proceeding before the U.S. Tariff Commission. A public hearing came on to be heard on July 30th and 31st, 1957 (then designated as Investigation No. 62). On January 14, 1958 the Tariff Commission sub-