

One, we could just put up more of these nontariff trade barriers ourselves and, indeed, this is what is going on. Our States now are engaged in putting into effect Buy American Acts.

Whether it is constitutional or not is another question, but that is an internal matter. Or we could go the way that I think you are recommending of knocking down other countries' barriers, and I certainly am in accord.

We can try to persuade these foreign countries to cut back on their barriers. We have plenty of buy American provisions ourselves. I pointed out one when the textile people were here the other day. We put in the defense appropriation bill a few years ago at their request that our military can only buy American textiles. That is a complete buy American.

I would observe, and I hope our committee staff will study this and possibly witnesses will bring us material in this area, that the Buy American Acts of this variety nowhere compare to the buy French, buy British restrictions, and so forth, imposed by our trading partners. So again, to add to Mr. Byrnes' observation, let's not get our own sins out here in the open without at the same time pointing up that in context of what other nations do in this area, our barriers aren't as excessive as theirs.

And then this added factor that I pointed out. In nations that are more socialistic, more and more industry is owned by the government, and Buy National Acts are much more effective because there are more governmental agencies involved.

I just wanted to put that in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schneebeli.

Mr. SCHNEEBELI. Has your industry ever considered going the route of the OEP? Would you qualify as a strategic industry under the Office of Emergency Planning?

Mr. HOBBS. We submitted a petition under section 8 of the Trade Agreements Act, I believe it was the act of 1958 which had the provision in it that you are referring to, Mr. Schneebeli, and were turned down.

Mr. SCHNEEBELI. For what reason?

Mr. HOBBS. Well, our basis was that the electrical equipment, the large steam turbine generators, and large power transformers, the key elements in the generation and transmission systems, were essential to national security, that the difficulty of repairs to foreign equipment if they were sabotaged or broke down in effect, was such that only American equipment should be bought for the key elements of the U.S. system, and this was rejected.

Mr. SCHNEEBELI. You didn't qualify.

Mr. HOBBS. Our petition was turned down. They said they would continue to look at it. This was about 1959 or 1960 as I recall.

Mr. SCHNEEBELI. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Again we thank you, Mr. Hobbs, for bringing to the committee your views.

Mr. HOBBS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart, again we ask you to identify yourself for the record and those at the table with you.