

Mr. CHESTER. Mr. Victor Thomas, of the United Cement, Lime, & Gypsum Workers.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR THOMAS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Victor H. Thomas, fifth general vice president of the United Cement, Lime, & Gypsum Workers, AFL-CIO.

I would like to thank the chairman and this committee for giving me the opportunity to express the views of my union on several pending proposals relating to the International Antidumping Code, and the Antidumping Act of 1921.

I have submitted a written statement with tables attached setting forth these views in full. At this time I would like to present only a brief summary of our position.

My union is concerned primarily with the particular unfair trade practice which has been all too prevalent in the importation of cement in the United States.

This is the unfair trade practice known as dumping, a practice under which foreign manufacturers of cement dump their excess production in the United States at prices greatly reduced below their own home market prices.

Dumping is condemned by our domestic laws, most importantly by the Antidumping Act of 1921. The effectiveness of this act, limited as it is in protecting domestic industry and workers from the effects of this unfair trade practice, would be seriously undermined by the proposed International Antidumping Code negotiated during the past year in Geneva, and by the regulations proposed by the Treasury to implement this code.

There was no authority for the negotiation of this code in the 1962 Trade Expansion Act, and its promulgation as an executive agreement would encroach and undermine the proper authority of the Congress to determine our domestic laws by substantially amending the provisions of the 1921 act.

Thus, I appear on behalf of my union to strongly urge this committee and the Congress to prevent the International Dumping Code from becoming effective without congressional approval.

Specifically, we urge this committee to report favorably on House Concurrent Resolution 447, and to support its passage by the Congress prior to July 1, 1968, when the code is scheduled to become effective.

The reason why the dumping of imports is of such concern to the members of my union are fully set forth in my written statement, and in the testimony of Mr. John Mundt on behalf of the cement industries committee for tariff and antidumping, presented to this committee on June 14, 1968.

During the last 10 years, workers in the domestic cement industries have continually been seriously affected by the dumping of foreign cement in the United States.

On two previous occasions, I have sought to bring this unfair and illegal situation to the attention of those concerned here in the Congress. The first time was during the August 1961, hearings before the House Committee on Education and Labor, the General Subcom-