Mr. CHESTER. Mr. George Barbaree, assisted by Mr. Lord.

STATEMENTS OF GEORGE R. BARBAREE AND ROBERT LORD

Mr. BARBAREE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is George R. Barbaree. I am international secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Operative Potters, AFL-CIO.

On behalf of our union and its membership, I thank you for giving of your time to listen to our views regarding the serious impact that the present import policy has, and is having, on the pottery industry, and more specifically the earthenware dinnerware potteries, where our members are employed.

We have prepared some charts to emphasize to you the reduction in shipments from the U.S. Pottery Association, and the corresponding unemployment that was a result of the reduction in man-hours worked due to the continued increase in foreign imports during the years from 1947 to 1967.

The black line on the chart shows that 27,293,281 dozen of earthenware was shipped in 1947, and that with the exception of the years 1958 through 1962, there has been a steady decline, with only 7,737,549 dozen being shipped in 1967, or a reduction in dozens shipped of over 70 percent.

The blue line, representing man-hours worked during the same period, reflects an almost parallel decline, dropping from 25,681,758 hours worked in 1947, to 5,297,424 hours worked in 1967, or a loss of over 75 percent.

The red line depicts the continued rise in imports during this same period, from approximately 2 million dozen in 1947 to approximately 25 million in 1967.

As a result of this invasion of the domestic market by unfair foreign dinnerware imports, the next chart shows that our members employed in the industry declined from approximately 12,000 in 1947 to 3,599 in 1967. or a loss in job opportunity of 70 percent.

From 1953 to 1967, 18 dinnerware potteries affiliated with the U.S. Potters Association in various States have been forced out of business because of being unable to compete with these foreign imports produced with low-wage rates.

Other plants under contract with our union, and not members of the USPA, also have gone out of business.

The financial plight of our inudstry can in no way be attributed to unreasonable wage or fringe demands by the union.

As a matter of fact, the union has had to recognize the import problem, and temper its demands accordingly.

The average hourly earnings in union potteries are approximately 60 cents per hour below the national averages for all manufacturers.

If our union members had not restrained their demands, there would be no pottery manufacturers remaining today.

Not only has cheap foreign imports caused numerous losses of jobs to American potters, but they are causing the standard of living of the remaining pottery workers to be lowered substantially.

In view of the above facts, it therefore becomes imperative for Congress to pass legislation to restrict this unfair foreign competition, so that a vital domestic industry, providing jobs for American workers,