

the product being manufactured. At the Charleston, West Virginia plant alone, 30 employees retired and 5 have died for a total of 35 employees lost through attrition. The same would hold true on a comparable basis for all 12 locals. In the two window glass plants of Libbey-Owens-Ford, at Charleston, West Virginia, and Shreveport, Louisiana, the youngest seniority date is February 10, 1956.

At the present time Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company has 162 employees represented by the Window Glass Cutters League of America, employed in their two plants. This figure, prior to 1960, was approximately 360 employees. If it were not because of contractual obligations, the remaining 162 employees would be reduced to less than 100.

Company officials have stated to me on numerous occasions that they would invest enormous amounts of capital to modernize their existing facilities and place back into operation their idle furnaces if there was any indication they would be able to share in the growing window glass market in the United States. However, with the present tariff structure and non-existing import ceilings, they are not willing to make such investments.

I respectfully submit on behalf of the employees in the window glass industry represented by the Window Glass Cutters League of America, that our employment within the already crippled industry be given great consideration and that you will give full support to the Herlong "Fair International Trade" bill, H.R. 16936.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our position.

STATEMENT OF HUBERTA M. PATTERSON, SECRETARY, WEST VIRGINIA LEAGUE, IN BEHALF OF WEST VIRGINIA, PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO, AND INDIANA GLASS WORKERS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUES

The Glass Workers' Protective Leagues whose members are affiliated with the American Flint Glass Workers Union, have over the years suffered severe setbacks due to ever increasing imports of all types of glass.

While some people argue that the production of glass may not be as important a segment of the national economy as some more basic industries, the great variety of glass products and its multiplicity of uses give it a most important place in our economy.

Lets look more closely at the relationship between protective tariffs and the American glassware industry in general, but particularly the hand-blown segment, offers a good example of the problems arising from increasing imports into the United States. The burden of this importation falls heavily on the workers and owners of the American glass ware industry. As recently as 1966, about 2 out of every 5 workers who produced tableware or artware or industrial glass specialties or lighting fixtures was laid off his regular job.

It is important to consider not just the lost jobs, but the impact of this unemployment on local communities. Since 1950 some fifteen (15) hand glass plants have closed, plants which in the late 1940's provided more than 2,500 jobs. Most of these companies and the ones in production today are located in communities of less than 25,000 population.

In areas of chronic unemployment where each lay-off compounds an already great problem, these glass companies are usually the dominant and in many cases the only manufacturing firms in the towns. The key factor in the failure of glass plants was not poor management and inefficiency. Low wage foreign imports were. It has been said that the automatic machine segment of the industry is the important factor in the closing of hand-made glass plants. Statistics show that is not the main factor, for low wage imports are causing great concern to the automatic machine plants as well.

The average hourly rate paid to skilled glassworkers in this Country today is \$3.93 per hour including fringe benefits. The rate for the supporting industrial help in the glass industry is \$2.82 per hour including fringe benefits. Approximately sixty (60) to seventy (70) percent of every cost dollar goes to labor.

If the hand-made glass industry in America is forced out of business due to imports, there would be a loss of skilled workers who played such an important role in producing wares for the national defense in past wars and other national emergencies.

We hope that there is no misunderstanding of our position. The American glassworker is aware of the necessity of maintaining trade with foreign countries. We are not asking for tariff barriers in order to eliminate competition.