

Now, window shades being a staple item, and particularly the low end plastic shades in question, are strictly a price article. Currently the principal exporting country to the United States is Formosa, and this has caused great difficulties, because we cannot compete pricewise, due to the very low wages that prevail in Formosa.

Moreover, the threat of an avalanche of further imported low-price competition has a depressing and detrimental effect on the entire industry.

We feel that the present rate of duty is wholly inadequate.

I might point out that right at the moment, there is a case on behalf of the Window Shade Manufacturers Association pending in the U.S. Customs Court. Here the Customs authority, through administrative practice, changed the classification of imported window shades, so that the rate of duty was reduced from 17 percent to the present 11 percent.

As a result, we believe that imports are increasing. However, we have no specific statistics available, inasmuch as there are only two large importers here in the States, and we are advised that with so few importers, this is considered confidential information, and is not available to us.

However, I believe that these statistics would be available to the committee.

Again, we feel that aid to the companies or to the workers is not the answer. It just doesn't do any good to drive the industry out of business, and then start retraining workers or giving them other forms of relief.

We want to meet competition in the marketplace, and over the years we have met competition from Canada and Western European countries; but the low wage rates that prevail in Formosa are another matter.

We believe that relief should be provided in an escape clause procedure for industries.

Our last point is that in addition to completed window shades entering the United States, there is also component parts presently in the form of vinyl plastic sheeting. The Federal Trade Commission has ruled in several instances that such articles finished in the United States from imported parts must indicate the country of origin of such parts, and we believe that this should apply universally, as in the case of window shades.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you very much for your kind attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

(Mr. Uecker's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM F. UECKER, WINDOW SHADE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

My name is William F. Uecker and I am General Sales Manager of Joanna Western Mills Company, located at 2141 South Jefferson Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The Window Shade Manufacturers Association is an association made up of domestic manufacturers of all types and kinds of window shades. However, for the purposes of this brief the matter will relate only to the manufacture and sale of plastic window shades. These shades are manufactured from a sheet of plastic or vinyl and then attached to a roller having a spring mechanism. The shade is raised or lowered by increasing or decreasing tension on the spring mechanism and the plastic is wound or unwound around the roller. The present active members are: Breneman, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45210; Illinois Shade Division of