Now, this means that shoe imports are up 47.5 percent this year over last year in numbers of pairs and 58.4 percent in dollar value. If this trend continues—and there is every indication that it will—imports, which represented only 1.2 percent as a percentage of U.S. production in 1955, could equal 35 percent of total domestic production in 1968, possibly 50 percent in 1969 and, almost certainly wreck the U.S. shoe industry, a large segment of which is in the Massachusetts districts which Congressman Burke and I represent, within the next few years.

I think, Mr. Chairman, the figures that have been presented here are alarming.

Similar disaster faces our leather manufacturing industry which is largely dependent upon a healthy domestic shoe manufacturing industry.

To avoid that prospect, Mr. Burke and I introduced H.R. 13616, a bill which would provide for orderly trade in leather footwear. Other measures are before you, including Congressman Herlong's Fair International Trade Act, H.R. 16936, which would establish ceilings on imports of a wide variety of products.

Also still before this committee is the earlier Orderly Marketing Act proposal, incorporated in H.R. 87 and H.R. 88, which I and Congressman Burke, respectively, introduced.

At the same time, these legislative proposals would permit foreign producers to share in the orderly growth of the domestic market.

The bills I have mentioned by number all potentially would benefit the American shoe and leather industries. It is apparent that what may emerge from the Ways and Means Committee is a composite plan to help maintain many different American industries while permitting international trade to expand. Toward that end, I sincerely hope that you gentlemen on the committee will give the most serious attention to the data and views you will hear today and include provisions in any new legislation which will help preserve the jobs of American shoe and leather workers.

Also, the trade adjustment assistance provision of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 must be strengthened so as to make them effective. I can think of no better way to emphasize this point than to quote from the resolution adopted by the Seventh Constitutional Convention of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations endorsing the concept of import quotas.

It says:

"The AFL–CIO conditioned its support for the Trade Expansion Act on the promise that American workers and firms, adversely affected by imports, would be safeguarded and/or assisted. As a result of the Tariff Commission's rigid interpretation of that law, all petitions for trade adjustment assistance have been rejected.

"The AFL–CIO reaffirms its conviction that a workable and effective adjustment assistance program is essential as one solution for some trade-related problems."

The Tariff Commission study requested recently by President Johnson to determine the effect of imported shoes on the American footwear industry is, of course, a welcomed sign that the facts already known to many of us have caused concern in our Government.

This study was asked after a unique exhibit of comparable domestic and imported shoes took place on Capitol Hill, which I know you saw yourself Mr. Chairman, and was seen by many of you in addition.