

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Muskie. We do appreciate your coming to this side of the Capitol to discuss with us your views and of course these matters will be fully considered by the committee.

Are there any questions? Mr. Burke.

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment Senator Muskie for his excellent statement here today. He really has covered the entire subject matter and particularly that part where you have emphasized the fact that we are not asking for a cutdown or rollback of imports.

In fact, we are recommending a flexible increase as long as it is a reasonable increase and this is something that many people are overlooking. They are making the charge of protectionism and actually it isn't. We don't mind them continuing their industries over there as long as they don't glut the market to such an extent that it would make the shoe business extinct.

Senator, I believe you are acquainted with the problems in New England as well as anyone of us and you remember in Nashua, N.H. when the textile mills closed down there how long it took, about 10 years, for that city to get back on its feet.

Most of these shoe companies up in our area, I believe, are small companies, maybe with 200 or 300 employees, family-owned businesses, and if they go out the towns go down completely.

Senator MUSKIE. And this is what has been happening, Congressman, as you know. First of all, as the textile industry dried up in New England a lot of these small towns disappeared. We are concerned these days with urban problems and one reason that we have these problems in the cities is because of the influx of these people from small towns that have been dried up in the backwash of our economic growth in this country, so the one-horse town, as we described it in Maine, is terribly important not only to its own people but to the problem of dealing with the urban crisis.

We have to find ways for people now to make a living and to find opportunities in the rural areas of America if we are to slow down the tide of people moving into the cities.

You know, one of the things that frustrated me about the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 was the provisions to provide economic relief for workers who lost their jobs as the result of industry closings related to imports.

The fact is that there is no effective way of providing relief when a single factory in a one-horse town in New England closes its doors. I don't think there is any way effectively of reaching into all these small towns and finding substitute industries of this kind which die and close their doors as a result of import competition.

So I think we have to consider their vitality in the long run.

Mr. BURKE. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

If not, again Senator, we thank you very much.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Is Senator Javits in the room now? I see our colleague from Pennsylvania, the Honorable John Dent, present.

Mr. Dent, will you please come forward?