

The comparably higher European tariffs combined with our decrease in tariffs is significant because in the last six years, there has been a 300% increase in imports of this machinery and a 25% decrease in exports of the same. In view of the present condition of our balance of payments, it would seem that some consideration should be given by Congress as soon as possible to this matter.

Several of my colleagues have introduced bills which would raise the tariff on imports of these foreign made machines. One of these bills is H.R. 6275 which was introduced by Congressman Carleton King who represents a district adjoining mine. This bill has my support.

All of the industries which I have mentioned, the manufacturing of paper making machinery, iron and steel, lead and zinc, shoe manufacturing, dairy farming and mink ranching, are vitally important to the economic life of the 31st District and to many others, I am sure. It is especially vital to the people of my district because it is already an area of high unemployment and underemployment.

I am interested in working with my constituents in seeking new industries for Northern New York to aid in its economic growth, but the subjects which this committee is considering are terribly important. Reasonable protection from foreign imports could not only protect present jobs, but it could create new ones in the industries we already have in our area.

I urge that this committee do all it can to help the many and varied industries of the 31st Congressional District of New York which, I am sure, are typical of many others across the country.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. McEwen, we thank you very much for coming to the committee and giving us this statement that you have. Of course it verifies the comment that I made earlier.

Any questions of Mr. McEwen?

We thank you, sir.

Mr. McEWEN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Congressman Kyros, we welcome you to the committee.

STATEMENT OF HON. PETER N. KYROS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Mr. KYROS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The recent figures released by the Department of Commerce indicating that shoe imports are on a steady rise prompts me to appear before your committee and urge favorable action in order that our footwear industry be protected against extinction.

During January of 1968 imports increased by over 70 percent above the same period in 1967. These figures are alarming and if the present rate of increased imports continue, imports could very well represent over 35 percent of domestic production.

I am not in favor of a cutback or a rollback in imports, in fact, I understand the footwear industry is willing to allow for flexible expansion of imports to a reasonable degree. I support this policy.

The shoe industry represents a most important segment of our economy in the State of Maine. Hundreds of workers in my home State could be adversely affected.

I join with my colleague Congressman Hathaway and with Senator Muskie and I wish to associate myself with their statements on the problems of the footwear industry.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Kyros. Any questions?

Our colleague from South Dakota, Mr. Berry, is our next witness.

We appreciate having you with us this morning, and you are recognized.