

imports cause increased apprehension and concern from our domestic industry which finds present law insufficient as a framework within which to battle the low-cost import products.

The Department of Commerce accentuated the need for our action when they released the latest figures on imported shoes. From 1965 to 1967, according to their statistics, imported shoes increased from 87,632,000 pairs valued at \$118,478,000 to 129,134,000 pairs worth \$217,593,000 in 1967. President Johnson, in recognition of this threat to an important segment of our domestic economy has initiated a study of the problem by the Tariff Commission.

Our recognition of the problem is reflected in the legislation before this Committee today—and we who have introduced this legislation are hopeful the Congressional concern will be manifest in law—not to defeat the philosophy of expanded world trade—but to equalize opportunities for a domestic industry to fairly compete with foreign manufacturers.

Our domestic industry has established ground rules which do not apply to importers. We believe in the fair labor laws and product quality standards upheld by our domestic shoe industry but we must realize that foreign competitors are not bound by the same considerations. Our domestic industry simply cannot meet the kinds of competition which are undercutting their sales and profits. Consequently, the industry and the Congress seek a means by which to relieve the injury being suffered without destroying viable industries in any other Nation.

The Orderly Marketing Act meets with the approval of the American shoe industry as a means whereby the industry can recover from the economic impairment to which it has been subjected by the greatest increase of import competition in recent years. The Orderly Marketing Act promises to relieve much of the apprehension in our domestic shoe industry which fears that many American firms will not long be able to survive in competition with foreign manufacturers unless imports are reasonably controlled.

The Marketing legislation would apply to and afford relief to all industries competing with imports produced with low-cost labor, but the effort was pioneered by the footwear industry which has suffered the heaviest under the import burden. This bill would provide for automatic adjustment of import levels whenever the ratio of imports to domestic production has increased by 50% or more during a five year period or whenever imports for the immediately preceding calendar year equalled 15% of more of domestic production. The legislation before you is designed to hold imports at a reasonable percentage of domestic production while insuring that the rate of imports would be increased as domestic production goes up. The President would be authorized to negotiate international import agreements as an alternative to imposing quotas whenever the orderly marketing provisions are invoked. This legislation is written so as not to upset quotas established by other federal laws.

The orderly marketing concept meets with widespread approval since it allows us to bring balance to our trade policy. It allows us to overcome unfair competition through international agreements or through unilateral but flexible quotas. And it allows foreign competitors to share in the growth of our economy while recognizing that we cannot tolerate imports of such quantity as to destroy vital industries within our economy. This legislation has been hailed as a "reasonable approach to a difficult and thorny problem" by our distinguished Senator Muskie of Maine who has led this effort in that body of the Congress. I concur with his view and endorse this effort by your committee to attend a matter of serious consequence.

We can take action designed to help American workers and businessmen to meet foreign competition on equal terms. It is my sincere hope that legislation will come before the House for consideration which will materially alleviate the grave threat now facing the footwear industry in this country. I shall support and work for such legislation.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MCCLORY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Chairman: I am pleased to lend my support to H.R. 6694 and related bills which would authorize import quotas on mink pelts.

This legislation appears to me to be the most logical and desirable in protecting the interests of mink breeders and ranchers of America.