

of the silver fox field. People in the fur trade who make garments or create fashions tend to shy away from a fur, the free supply of which is curtailed.

Muskrats.—At the time the ranchers succeeded in imposing an outright embargo on Russian silver foxes they also succeeded in embargoing Russian muskrats. The embargo on muskrats is still on the books and today the importation of Russian muskrats is down to zero. Truly an ideal situation for the domestic fur producer for imports of Russian muskrats accounted for over 60% of all muskrat imports. But production of American muskrats steadily declined and by 1965 was down to a little over 4 million skins—a decline of 50% from 1951 when the embargo was imposed. American consumption of muskrats also steadily declined and was down to practically zero by 1966. Today the bulk of the American crop of muskrats (probably 95%) has to be marketed abroad.

If a *mink* quota were instituted, United States' manufacturers of fur-trimmed garments would be forced to cut back their production because the vast bulk of Scandinavian furskins are of a grade that goes into mink-trimmed garments. The Tariff Commission reported:

"Most of the furskins exported to the United States were of the commercial and low grades; they consisted principally of female furskins, which are smaller and hence lower in unit value than the male furskins of comparable quality."

At page 52 the Report states:

"United States' imports of mink furskins from Scandinavia consist generally of the standard colors—primarily the commercial grade, and include more female furskins (which are smaller in size) than male furskins. Imports from Canada customarily have been of a somewhat better quality than have been those from Scandinavia. The bulk of the imported furskins are used to trim cloth coats or are made up into medium-to-low priced fur garments."

Thus a cutback in mink imports would be a crippling blow to the manufacturers of fur-trimmed garments and their workers.

My Association, therefore, strongly urges this Committee not to report out either the various mink quota bills or the Herlong mathematical quota bill. No one can legislate women's tastes.

In conclusion, I wish to join with numerous other witnesses who have appeared here in support of the Trade Expansion Act of 1968 recently introduced at the behest of the Administration. It will advance world trade and will, if adopted, help bring to our exporters the great benefits which can be derived from the Kennedy Round.

APPENDIX A

RAW—DRESSED—FUR WEARING APPAREL

[In millions of dollars]

Year	Total fur imports	Reexports	Net imports	Total fur exports
1948.....	164	14	150	31
1949.....	109	12	96	26
1950.....	109	13	96	24
1951.....	114	11	103	32
1952.....	79	11	68	30
1953.....	72	12	60	30
1954.....	72	12	60	31
1955.....	87	13	74	38
1956.....	86	14	72	37
1957.....	86	15	71	43
1958.....	88	13	75	36
1959.....	108	17	91	40
1960.....	109	16	93	47
1961.....	101	14	87	46
1962.....	117	16	101	48
1963.....	128	20	108	62
1964.....	113	14	99	59
1965.....	126	11	115	67
1966.....	142	10	132	71
1967.....	102	7	95	65

Source: Compiled from U.S. Department of Commerce reports.