

Our estimate of imports for 1968 is under 4.5 million. During the first 4 months of the current year (the only months for which figures are now available) imports of mink furskins were down 508,277, or 18.4 percent under the 1967 level. From Scandinavia the reduction was 356,589 skins, or 19.7 percent less than for the same period in 1967. This is of interest particularly in view of the fact that 1967 imports, as shown by the Tariff Commission's study, were down 400,000 skins, or about 8 percent from 1966. Marketing reports indicate that when final figures for the year 1968 are available, the reduction of imports from the 1967 level of 5.3 million skins will range from somewhere between 16 to 20 percent, which would reduce the 5.3 million level of 1967 to somewhere between 4.25 to 4.5 million. Here are the actual figures as shown by the Department of Commerce reports:

<i>Raw mink furskin imports, all countries</i>	
Total imports, January through April 1967-----	2, 752, 679
Value -----	\$29, 631, 886
Total imports, January throughout April 1968-----	2, 244, 402
Value -----	\$25, 513, 182
Reduction in numbers-----	508, 277
<i>Raw mink furskin imports, Scandinavia</i>	
Total imports, January through April 1967-----	1, 817, 985
Value -----	\$19, 470, 894
Total imports, January through April 1968-----	1, 461, 496
Value -----	\$18, 097, 009
Reduction in numbers-----	356, 589

Thus, for 2 years in a row since 1966 imports have substantially decreased. Compare this with domestic sales. According to Tariff Commission Table 4, U.S. sales increased, from 1966 to 1967, by 300,000 skins, or 5 percent. We have nothing but market reports to indicate the level of domestic sales for 1968, but it is believed, on the basis of those reports, that the total sales in 1968 will exceed the domestic sales of 1967. Thus the relative share of consumption provided by domestic sales has increased the past 2 years while the share of imports has declined.

At the same time let's look at exports of U.S.-produced mink furskins. Table 4 of the Commission's Report shows that exports of domestic raw skins increased from 1.1 million (out of total production of 5.9 million) in 1966 to 1.3 million in 1967 (out of a production of 6.2 million). Department of Commerce figures for January through April 1967 show the total exports of raw and dressed skins for that 4-month period at 635,904, whereas during the same period this year they increased by 242,435 skins to a level of 878,339, an increase of 38.1 percent over 1967. Thus not only has the domestic share of the total U.S. consumption increased each of the last 2 years, but for each of those same years, U.S. exports of raw mink furskins have increased substantially.

This doesn't seem to me to spell out a picture of an industry in distress. As further evidence of the present condition of the domestic mink producers—and of the fact that there is no present need for legislative relief for this industry—I should like to report to you here the words of the ranchers' own magazine, the National Fur News, for May 1968. The magazine described the complete sellout of all of the