

JARDOX FUR Co.,
New York, N.Y., July 10, 1968.

HON. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MILLS: We have heard about various attempts to impose import quotas on mink furskins and the purpose of this letter is to register our most definite opposition. The fur trade in raw skins is dependent on an unhindered exchange of merchandise without duties or quotas. We have had enough experience in the restricting influence of quotas which in the end will hurt not only the free trade but also the breeders who they are supposed to protect.

I feel certain that your own experience will also cause you to vote against any restrictive legislation.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR RAPAPORT.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Burke.

Mr. BURKE. I would like at this time to introduce into the record a resolution of the Massachusetts Governor's Advisory Committee for the Shoe and Leather Industry.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the resolution shall appear in the record at this point.

(The resolution follows:)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
DEVELOPMENT, BOSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SHOE AND
LEATHER INDUSTRY

The Governor's Advisory Committee for the Shoe and Leather Industry, in meeting on June 11, 1968, expressed concern over the fact that there has been a 47.4 percent increase in the imports of shoes in the first four months of 1968 over the same period of 1967. This increased import of shoes in total is equal to 32.7 percent of the total shoe production (in pairs) in the United States. In the first four months of 1967, the imports of shoes equaled 24 percent of the total shoe production in the United States. This indicates that the imports of shoes from foreign countries increased approximately 30 percent faster in 1968 than in 1967. If this rate of increasing imports continues, the production of foreign-made shoes, sold in the United States, could conceivably equal that of our own production in the United States within a few years.

This trend is causing a marked decrease in the number of people employed in the shoe and leather and allied industries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The 1956 Census of Manufacturers shows a total employment in the shoe and leather and allied industries of 56,000 people. The latest census of 1966 figures shows 39,000 people employed in these industries which is approximately a 30 percent decrease in the total employment in the shoe and leather and allied industries in this period of time. The number of people employed in these industries has further decreased since that time.

At the present time, the shoe and leather industries are providing a large number of jobs for people whose living standards are relatively low or, in other words, for people who live in the poor sections of the larger cities in Massachusetts. The jobs provided by these industries in the ghetto areas are among the better paying jobs for those people who have little or no skill and less than average education. If the employment in the shoe and leather and allied industries in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England continues to decline at the present rate, many of these people will be added to the unemployment and Social Security rolls. Many companies in these industries that are not able to meet foreign competition because of the difference between the wage levels of foreign manufacturers and domestic manufacturers will be forced out of business.

The Governor's Advisory Committee unanimously recommended, in its meeting on June 11, 1968, in Boston, the passage of the following Resolution:

Be it Resolved that the Governor's Advisory Committee for the Shoe and Leather and Allied Industries recommends to Commissioner T. W. Schulenberg of the Department of Commerce and Development, and to His Excellency John A. Volpe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, That