

The tanning industry endorses, therefore, the principle of import quotas as the only logical and feasible means of assuring that the traffic on the trade bridge between the United States and the rest of the world be held in order rather than allowed to become chaos. Such reasonable control will benefit other countries as much as ourselves because our economic health and stability is indispensable to progress in the rest of the world.

Thank you.

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Glass?

STATEMENT OF IRVING R. GLASS

Mr. GLASS. Thank you.

If I may take a few minutes of yours and the committee's time, I have submitted a detailed statement. To that statement are appended a very substantial record of what has happened to the tanning industry over the past 12 years; a record of imports as compiled by the Department of Commerce.

I want to presume upon your time for a few minutes to stress certain aspects of our experience and the views which that experience has generated and the conclusions to which we have come.

We do not believe that our experience is widely paralleled anywhere else in the industrial structure of the United States. Bear in mind, gentlemen, that the tanning industry in terms of the number of products in which it trades with the rest of the world and the number of nations with which it deals probably has as diversified and broad an experience as any industry or product area in the country.

Consequently, we assume that our experience as an industry may be of some benefit and guidance in this consideration of national trade policy.

You will notice from the figures appended to my statement that in every instance every major product we produce or with which we compete has shown a record of startling and enormous import growth in the past two decades. I need not review the details of the figures. They are self-evident.

I am sure they are familiar to you by now. Let me point out what Mr. Meyer referred to. Last year in 1967 our imports of baseball gloves, to use the conventional statistical usage, were 570-odd percent of our domestic production, and all that has happened in some 10 or 12 years.

There is no point in dwelling on the irony of our importing the accoutrements for our national pastime. The ratio of imports to domestic production of baseball gloves is 507.05 percent.

A similar trend is started, has started, has taken hold to a very considerable extent in virtually every other type of fabricated leather product, and within the past 6 years it has become increasingly evident that the same trend is taking place in finished leather invading the U.S. market. If that trend reaches its climax in the continued growth of shoe imports, we are out of business, and so are our friends the shoe manufacturers or the manufacturers of ladies' handbags, industrial work gloves, baseball gloves, and any other product made of leather.

We attribute our experience over the past two decades, gentlemen, to the simple fact that the context of international trade for a genera-