

The crucial point is that tariff provisions are meaningless in dealing with the consequences of deliberate policy by other nations, policy framed and carried out for defined purposes.

We estimate, from the data of the Department of Commerce, that in 1967 imports of shoes, other leather products and leather represented the equivalent of more than two months' operations by the U.S. tanning industry. That ratio is worse in 1968 when the first four months have disclosed another startling jump in shoe imports. Is this trend irreversible? Must our domestic tanning industry and leather goods industries be extinguished by the tidal wave from abroad? The answer is yes under the present national policy, and that result will inevitably shut the door of job opportunity on the very groups who need it most.

A change of policy is long past due. Outworn dogmas must be discarded. We must accept the logic of the facts and that logic points to an import quota system as the only effective and feasible means of coping with the impact of imports.

Minor tariff changes or emulating other countries in respect of border taxes and subsidies are in no sense a solution. Adjustment assistance provisions are palliatives which will only add to relief rolls and taxpayers' burdens. What the country needs and what our industry needs is an import quota system to give a measure of stability to the process of change and development.

Import quotas will aid us in preserving essential job opportunity. They will not foreclose competition. On the contrary, quotas will aid all of our trading partners by assuring them of participation in U.S. growth instead of permitting them to destroy it. Import quotas, whenever found necessary by plainly defined criteria, are the only equitable means of protecting other free economies against drastic and injurious trade dislocation. In short, the stabilization of foreign trade, the assurance of viability for domestic industry, job opportunity for the future American labor force and plain equity and defense against totalitarian trading systems all urgently require the new, the realistic approach of reasonable quotas. The Tanners' Council urges speedy action in adoption of legislation and administrative methods because delay will mean irreparable economic damage.

#### I. U.S. LEATHER IMPORTS BY PRINCIPAL CATEGORIES

##### (a) Calf Leather

|                          | Imports<br>(thousand<br>square feet) | Percent imports<br>of domestic<br>production |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1955.....                | 11,065                               | 9.7                                          |
| 1960.....                | 26,302                               | 37.8                                         |
| 1965.....                | 28,512                               | 41.4                                         |
| 1967.....                | 35,045                               | 79.5                                         |
| 1968 (1st 4 months)..... | 14,812                               | 94.8                                         |

##### (b) Cattle Side Leather

|                          |        |     |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1955.....                | 3,734  | .6  |
| 1960.....                | 10,353 | 1.8 |
| 1965.....                | 53,999 | 8.5 |
| 1967.....                | 52,007 | 8.3 |
| 1968 (1st 4 months)..... | 19,078 | 8.6 |

##### (c) Goat and Kid Leather

|                          |        |      |
|--------------------------|--------|------|
| 1955.....                | 7,133  | 6.1  |
| 1960.....                | 12,114 | 14.3 |
| 1965.....                | 16,096 | 24.6 |
| 1967.....                | 17,082 | 44.9 |
| 1968 (1st 4 months)..... | 5,188  | 50.1 |

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce and Tanners' Council.