the percentage had increased to 21.4 percent, with nearly one-third of the total increase having been accounted for in 1966.

The speeded-up pace of footwear imports has not let up in 1968, but, if anything, it has accelerated.

Figures for the first quarter of 1968 show that leather footwear imports amounted to 52 million pairs, up approximately 49 percent over the same quarter of 1967.

Each U.S. shoe factory make specific types of footwear. Total imports of nonrubber footwear amounting to 21.4 percent of domestic production take on added significance to the factories and workers involved when applied to imports by product types. For instance, imports of women's casual shoes in 1967 amounted to 90 percent of domestic production, women's dress shoes, 28 percent; and men's cement footwear, 25 percent.

While U.S. production of nonrubber footwear increased by only a little over 3 million pairs between 1960 and 1967, the U.S. market or consumer demand for such footwear increased nearly 106 million pairs—from 626,658,000 in 1960 to 732,348,000 pairs in 1967. Thus any benefit from the American consumers' increased demand for nonrubber footwear between 1960 and 1967 went to foreign producers and was denied American shoe manufacturers and their workers.

In 1960 there were approximately 216,000 American shoe workers directly engaged in the production of nonrubber footwear. In 1967 this number had decreased to approximately 201,000 workers for a loss of about 15,000 production jobs in the shoe industry. This is in large part a reflection of the growing efficiency of American shoe production, with 7 percent less production workers needed to produce a slightly larger output.

Against this natural decline in employment in the American shoe industry, consider that imports of 21.4 percent of domestic production might represent about 43,000 job opportunities in 1968. If leather footwear imports continue to increase at present rates, 76,000 job opportunities will be absorbed by imports by 1970. If imports continue unchecked and U.S. companies continued to open more factories abroad while closing more factories here, it is entirely conceivable that by 1980 the shoe industry will have entirely vanished from the American scene.

There is another factor in the import picture which is adversely affecting the American shoe worker. Increasingly, American manufacturers are importing partially completed footwear. Complete shoe uppers, cut and fitted and ready to have the soles attached, are being brought in. By this arrangement, operations representing about half of the work are done abroad, at low foreign rates of pay.

Figures on the numbers of such units imported are not available, but the dollar value of cut shoe uppers which is the nearest we can come to it, imported in 1967 was $1,860,000, and at the rate for the first 3 months of 1968, the total for the current year with exceed $2,500,000. The largest increase in this type of import of partially finished footwear are from Spain, Italy, and Mexico.

American shoe workers do not believe that it is more important to make jobs for Japanese, Italians, Spanish, or Mexican workers than it is for them, nor do they believe that reciprocal trade means trading their jobs for foreign made shoes, nor are they willing to stand by and