

companies have given a variety of reasons but running through them all has been a reference to labor shortage and, again quoting them, I state that if there has been a decline in shoe production, it is chargeable in large measure to labor shortage. I note that those who preceded us spoke of a prospective loss of job opportunities projected into 1970 but in truth there has been very little loss of actual jobs at the present time in view of the fact that there is a labor shortage in the shoe industry.

You will find reference in our brief to statements from manufacturers that, "If we had more men we would produce more shoes."

Now, of course, in any industry as large as the shoe industry there is likely to be from time to time labor dislocations when one industry closes or when one area shifts from the manufacture of shoes to the manufacture of something else but that cannot be called a surplus of labor. That is a labor dislocation.

I think it should be said because here again you will find references to it in the trade press that in some instances and under some circumstances imports have helped the domestic industry. They have helped the domestic industry, for example, in introducing into the United States the knee high women's boot which was first handcrafted and made with expensive leathers to sell for \$40 to as high as \$100 per pair retail and after the imported article became a success it was modified, mass produced and sold at much lower prices in perhaps less expensive but equally durable materials to the American public; and so there is one instance where the introduction of a new item helped the domestic industry. It has been so with the variety of men's shoes, the differences in styles that first were introduced principally by imports and later copied by domestic manufacturers.

There is a line of shoes manufactured in Switzerland called the Bally which has been largely copied by American manufacturers because they were first imported and demonstrated to be popular. We say too that imports help the public. There is a line of shoes imported from Japan, casual shoes made of materials other than leather that retail at prices from \$1 to \$2. These are a different line of shoes than those referred to by the domestic people earlier that retail for \$3, \$4 and \$5. These are really shoes that can be purchased by people who might not otherwise be able to afford a pair of shoes and, if we are considering the public as a whole and emphasizing our attention, as appropriately we are, on the poorer classes who are underprivileged and unable to buy the more expensive products, we should bear in mind that those people can buy these dollar, \$2, \$3 shoes that come from Japan when they might otherwise be without a pair of shoes.

I think in the face of the labor shortage in the shoe industry, the import trade has done a service to the public and perhaps to the shoe industry too because the natural result of a labor shortage is that the price of the product increases and here import competition has tended to prevent those increases in prices from becoming too steep. Those of us who pay the prices will say they are enough but import competition has held the price down and that is a note I would say in behalf of the American public and an item that speaks well for the import industry.

I observed that your committee was shown exhibits of shoes imported and compared with domestic counterparts where there was a sub-