Another example is Bally Shoes of Switzerland. This multi-style line of men's and women's shoes retail in this country from $29 to $45. Domestic reproductions are in great demand, priced from $10.95 to $14.95.

A variation of the above is practiced by the Rose-Bro Shoe Co., Inc., of Boston. This firm offers both "in stock" and "make-up" imported footwear for the volume trade. Shoes are made of imported materials, using American lasts and patterns combined with European styling. Johnson, Stephens & Shinkle Shoe of St. Louis features a line of Spanish made shoes manufactured with American lasts, gradings and fittings. Other domestic firms are purchasing rights to manufacture shoes of European style, construction and design and to sell them under the foreign company's label in the United States.

A Miami retailer complained that he cannot obtain imported sandals (playshoes) in various widths:

"He can sell domestic sandals for $4.95 but imported styles sell for about $6.50. The imports are far ahead from a fashion standpoint * * *. The trouble with imports is that you must wait for the right foot to come along." (*"Footwear News,"* May 2, 1968.)

Most imported sandals come in a single width that is too wide for the average American foot. U.S. manufacturers, by providing reproductions in a wide range of sizes and widths, again fulfill demands created by the more fashionable European imports.

Shoe wholesalers and small retailers are just as much a segment of the domestic industry as manufacturers. A 1966 Tariff Commission investigation (No. AA 1921–48) of workshoes imported from Europe revealed that the practice of American manufacturers' selling directly to chain stores and large retailers was adversely affecting wholesalers whose traditional function it was to supply smaller retail units. Smaller stores could not carry the large stock and full range of sizes and, therefore, could not compete with chain stores and volume retailers. Testimony disclosed that wholesalers are happy to have the supply of the foreign shoes. Small retailers testified that imports helped keep them in business when domestic manufacturers were bypassing them, selling to large corporate competitors. The Commission found no injury or likelihood of injury to the domestic footwear industry. It was affirmatively established that the imports were marketed at price parity with comparable domestic shoes.

ROLE OF SHOE IMPORTS IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Imports of footwear have been playing an essential role and constitute almost a textbook example of the importance of liberal trade policies in a dynamic economy. Despite much sophisticated machinery, the manufacture of shoes has always involved a lot of handwork. The general labor shortage has been felt particularly in the shoe industry as style factors have increased the demand for shoes. The natural consequence has been an increase in imports, in which many of the established manufacturers have joined by using imports to fill out portions of their lines. This has had three extremely desirable consequences for the American economy: it has freed labor for other industries; it has made products available to the public at prices which they can afford; and it has helped to restrain inflationary trends with respect to a vital consumer product. Without imports, the result would have been higher prices for shoes, perhaps higher wages to attract more labor, fewer shoes purchased, and greater inflation.

LABOR SHORTAGE

The labor shortage in the footwear industry is well documented by the trade press. Attached hereto are a few of the articles that have appeared in the *"Footwear News,"* the *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, and the *"Wall Street Journal."* The following is a brief summary:

On March 22, 1966, the *"Wall Street Journal"* reported:

"Endicott Johnson Corp. is considering consolidating some of its shoe-manufacturing plans due to acute labor shortage. * * * The President told the annual meeting * * * 'We could use more than 300 people right now, and the truth of the matter is that we can't get them.' "

On May 5, 1966, the Chairman of United States Shoe Corp. said:

"We can sell more shoes than we can make * * *. Labor is the most vulnerable facet of the shoe business. It is a traditionally low-paid industry anyway, and because of heavy industrial growth in some established cities it is difficult to