

The President of the United States has said in his address to this Committee that:

"Some firms . . . have difficulty in meeting foreign competition and need time and help to make the adjustment."

"Since international trade strengthens the nation as a whole, it is only fair that the government assist those businessmen and workers who face serious problems as a result of increased imports."

"As part of a comprehensive trade expansion policy, I propose that we make our adjustment assistance program fair and workable."

"I recommend that Congress broaden the eligibility for this assistance. The test should be simple and clear: relief should be available whenever increased imports are a substantial cause of injury."

We ask the Committee to consider our needs in the light of the President's statement.

Mr. ZUKOWSKY. I will try to proceed as expeditiously as possible.

My name is Norman Zukowsky. I am International President of the International Leather Goods, Plastics, & Novelty Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

I am accompanied this session by one industry representative, Mr. Steven J. Weiss, counsel for the National Handbag Association. I have already explained the absence of Mr. Citronbaum of the Luggage & Leather Goods Manufacturers Association.

By consent it is agreed that I would make the presentation, on behalf of the union, second, on behalf of the industries which comprise the jurisdiction of our union. I may also say, parenthetically, that we feel our industries, or at least I feel the industries are essential to the economy of this country.

If, while certain circles may say that a \$50 handbag is a luxury, or a \$100 piece of luggage, I would agree, but popular-priced handbags and luggage are essential.

A handbag is the sum total of a man's pockets, and certainly, luggage is needed for businessmen who travel, Congressmen, lawyers, and even union representatives. That would apply also to personal leather goods, as well.

In behalf of the International Leather Goods, Plastics and Novelty Workers' Union, AFL-CIO, many of those 40,000 members are engaged in the production of handbags and purses, personal leather goods and luggage, we are presenting this brief in response to the press release, dated May 9, 1968, by the Committee on Ways and Means which invited participation by "interested organizations" in a public hearing to be conducted, commencing June 4, 1968, by the committee on the general subject of the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations.

Since the job security and welfare of our members, including the maintenance of the standards and conditions built up over several decades, are intimately bound up with this problem of tariff and trade, our international union can definitely be categorized as an "interested organization."

I. THE LEATHER GOODS' INDUSTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD TRADE

Concerned as our international union is, and understandably so, with the specific problems of the leather goods' industry, we are mindful that these problems are minor when placed in the thrust of the U.S. economy as a whole, and, beyond that, of the general outlines of world trade. In 1965, according to the latest available official data of the