

now extremely anxious to promote the overseas sale of their product. This is particularly true of Western Europe, due to the degradation of the home market brought about by the tremendous influx of oil and natural gas in the last few years. For this reason, we greatly fear that the imposition of a steel quota at this time would gravely affect the American coal industry since most of the American coal currently exported is purchased by overseas steel companies for metallurgical use. Therefore, if they could not sell their steel in the United States, the obvious retaliatory measure would be against American coal.

While the percentage of imported steel to domestic production is relatively small, its effect on the domestic steel industry is further diluted in that it is fairly well spread throughout the country. However, it must be borne in mind that 95% of the export coal comes from the Appalachian region of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky; so that should coal exports be decreased due to the retaliatory reaction of foreign countries, the effect on this limited area would be immense and would add to the already existing problems of Appalachia. There is no doubt that unemployment in the area would climb rapidly and the entire economy in this region would be severely affected.

Finally, we are, by principle, believers in free trade. Unless the national interest in terms of national defense is involved, we believe that the greatest good for the nation can come about through a world-wide free exchange of goods and services. Having fought for so long to establish this principle overseas to permit the unrestricted importation of American coking coal by foreign steel companies, we cannot now in good conscience stand silent while the proponents of protectionism would undermine the efforts of past years. Therefore, we earnestly ask that you do what you can to maintain the traditional American policy of free trade by speaking and voting against the protectionist measures now before Congress. Your stand against this pernicious philosophy of protectionism now will ensure the promotion of American exports in the future.

Very truly yours,

MARK R. JOSEPH,
Vice President.

Mr. HERLONG. Mr. Myron Solter.

Mr. Solter, for the purposes of the record will you identify yourself and whom you represent and proceed in your own way.

STATEMENT OF MYRON SOLTER, COUNSEL, IMPORTED HARDWOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Mr. SOLTER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Myron Solter. I am an attorney in Washington and it is my pleasure to appear before the committee today on behalf of the Imported Hardwood Products Association, headquartered in San Francisco.

With the chairman's permission I will merely summarize briefly and verbally the content of my prepared statement but would request that the statement appear in the record.

Mr. HERLONG. The entire statement will appear in the record.

Mr. SOLTER. Thank you.

The Imported Hardwood Products Association, and please permit me to call it the IHPA for conserving time—embraces some 38 regular members and some 64 associate members concerned with the hardwood products import distribution and use in the United States.

We don't keep close figures for various reasons but we think that the membership of the association accounts for probably two-thirds by value of the total imports of such products into the United States.

Very briefly, this organization wishes to convey to the committee its views of support for the administration's proposed Trade Expansion Act of 1968 with a couple of suggestions which we would like to add to