

pean material is simply the most practical product on the market today for this purpose.

I would like to deviate for the moment from my written statement which I felt rather unqualified to prepare in the sense that I am not a lawyer but am a woodworking man.

For that reason I attached to my statement samples of the articles I wish to discuss, miniature samples, so that you can see for yourselves better than I can tell you my problem, I think.

Mr. BATTIN. Before you go on, will you tell me what a picker stick

#### DUTY RATES UNDER PRESENT TARIFF SCHEDULES

Mr. TRAVIS. Yes. A picker stick is a part of a loom. Do you have a copy of the statement? A picker stick is a part of a loom or weaving machine and you will find the sample on the righthand side of the page there of a one-quarter scale model, in fact, of a finished picker stick which is currently dutiable at the rate of 12½ percent ad valorem. On the left side you will see a sample of a semiprocessed picker stick or picker stick blank, the material from which to make the item, which is currently dutiable at 18 percent.

Foreign manufacturers whose labor and production costs are already much lower than we have here in this country because of this are being given a further cost advantage and it makes it very difficult for U.S. firms to compete with these manufacturers even under the best of circumstances, but with this inequitable situation, it is much worse.

Partly because of this within the last 3 years approximately 38 percent of firms who were previously manufacturing picker sticks in the States have either gone out of business or have ceased the manufacture of this product. Given a reasonable equitable tariff law however I think that my firm as well as the other remaining manufacturers of these products can be fully capable of effectively competing against most foreign competitors.

It is not my purpose to ask you for protective tariffs or import quotas which would restrict the activities of foreign manufacturers selling their products on the American market. I think the current duty rates on finished picker sticks, as well as on other textile machine parts are reasonable and just, and apparently you gentlemen in Congress studied the matter very carefully before setting current rates. However, I think it is grossly unfair to U.S. manufacturers to have to pay a higher rate for the material than these foreign manufacturers are having to pay for the finished product that they market here in the States.

I don't think it was your intention originally to have this rate apply to these materials to make these specific items. For example, I have noted in the tariff schedules and I quote from it "wood blocks for shuttles" which is another part made from these same woods, can be imported duty free and this is under tariff schedule item No. 200.55.

Why should the rate for compressed wood shuttle blocks be 18 percent whereas the natural wood blocks dedicated for finishing into shuttles aren't dutiable at all.

The customs appraiser of the port of Charleston, S.C., has informed us that under the present tariff schedules, although he realizes this seems to be a very unfair situation, and very difficult to understand,