

Mr. BURKE. Have you the report there?

Mr. TRAVIS. I can find it if you will give me just a moment I think.

Mr. BURKE. Can you give just one paragraph of their conclusions or if you want to leave it with the staff you may.

Mr. TRAVIS. Yes, I will be happy to leave it. They made a point regarding the fact that the bill that Congressman Ashmore had introduced would be made retroactive back to 1963. This is because in 1963, the duty rate was increased on this particular item from, at that time, 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent to 20 percent and Congressman Ashmore as well as Congressman St. Onge in order to correct the inequitable situation that has existed since that date had stated that this bill would be made retroactive, and one point that the tariff reported that I don't agree with is that they commented, and I quote "A retroactive rate reduction in such a case can only serve as a windfall to importers who no doubt have completed most of their business transactions involving such imports." This is not the case.

Mr. BURKE. That is based on the fact that it was retroactive. Were there any other reasons that they gave besides that?

Mr. TRAVIS. Well, it was rather incongruous to me. They made statements such as "densified woods used in manufacturing shuttles and picker sticks is not distinctly different from wood used for other purposes."

If that is true then I think the rate should be free because we have this other classification.

Could I make one other point? I would like to mention this. When I first saw the value of this material and how much better it was than our indigenous woods I didn't want to import my material requirement from Germany but I started importing shipments through the Port of Charleston.

On the first shipment I imported, the appraiser set a rate of 20 percent. He classified it under item 203.10. Then the next shipment and several shipments later apparently another appraiser had examined the material, and he classified it under this other item, 670.74 which was at 14 percent.

Initially my shipments were classified under two classifications. I never knew what the rate would be. I have a big mouth and I used it to my disadvantage in that I pointed out then to the customs people in Charleston that they were charging me more on some shipments than on others.

That prompted them to go back and charge me the difference on the ones that I had imported at 14 percent so that my big mouth got me in trouble.

Mr. BURKE. They didn't give you the reduction.

Mr. TRAVIS. No, they didn't. One gentleman—and I won't give you his name—

Mr. BURKE. Do you import the semiprocessed material?

Mr. TRAVIS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BURKE. Would the answer to your problem be reducing the 18 percent ad valorem on the semiprocessed material?

Mr. TRAVIS. The bill that Congressman Ashmore has introduced would reduce it to 7 percent. This was before the Kennedy negotiations.