

**STATEMENT OF HON. CLARENCE D. LONG, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

Mr. LONG. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, as a former economics professor and a longtime advocate of free trade, I am pleased to have this opportunity to submit to you a statement regarding the future direction of U.S. foreign trade policy.

I am proud of U.S. leadership in the reduction of trade barriers in the years since World War II, and I hope that this country will continue to work toward free trade among nations by taking the initiative in joining with Canada, the United Kingdom, and other free world nations in the formation of a broad-based Free Trade Association.

In a recent speech before a trade policy conference sponsored by the Atlantic Study Group in London, I outlined my views on the form which such a Free Trade Association should take, and described my bill, H.R. 18194, which would encourage U.S. participation in a Free Trade Association. I should like to submit the text of my speech for inclusion in the record and for the consideration of the members of this committee.

(The text follows:)

**A BILL FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN A FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION AND ITS POLITICAL
PROSPECTS**

(By Clarence D. Long, Member of Congress)

As an economist-turned-politician, I shall not conceal from you that the finer points of my economic training have long since faded from memory. But perhaps my years in Congress—which have brought such heavy erosion in whatever I once knew about economics—have at least replaced it with some feeling for the political process. I am happy to have been invited to share with you today some of my thoughts on the feasibility of a Free Trade Association, because the question of whether we ever form such an Association is dependent, not on its economic desirability, but on its political acceptability.

Let me say at the outset that I am optimistic about the outlook for free trade and for a Free Trade Area. In the years since World War Two, United States leadership in the reduction of trade barriers—from the formation of GATT to the Kennedy Round—has given me as an American much of which to be proud and, I might say, agreeably surprised. And it has made me hopeful that the present cultural lag of about two centuries between what the economists know about the desirability of free trade and what the public will accept may not extend for more than another decade or two.

In analyzing the political framework within which the Free Trade Association would be considered in the United States, I was somewhat astonished to discover that not one of the bills in the legislative hopper of this Congress addresses itself to American participation in a Free Trade Association. I have therefore attempted to fill this vacuum by introducing a bill, H.R. 18194, and I should like, first, to describe its major provisions, and then to proceed to a brief evaluation of its chances for political success.

My bill, the Free Trade Association Act of 1968, sets forth, as statements of principle, that the United States should work toward free trade among nations as the goal of its foreign trade policy, and that United States participation in a Free Trade Association is the most workable method for negotiating free trade among as many nations as possible.

My legislation would encourage the President to initiate negotiations for a multilateral agreement to establish a Free Trade Association.

Prior to formal negotiations, the President is directed:

First, to launch an intensive one-year study of the consequences for the United States of participation in a Free Trade Area, and