I have introduced bills which would provide some degree of relief for domestic mink ranchers from the influx of imports, particularly from the Scandinavian countries. The mink industry has been to the Tariff Commission twice seeking relief.

Despite the fact that they have lost over 50 percent of their domestic market, and despite the fact over 50 percent of the ranchers have been forced out of business because of imports, no relief has been granted. Here, perhaps, is one more industry to which Mr. Roth could look before he again reports to the press that "I know of no industry that is in danger because of foreign imports."

The Tariff Commission found that in 1967 the apparent domestic consumption of mink pelts was 10,200,000, with 5,300,000 imported: 51 percent of domestic consumption. It is obvious from these figures why the domestic rancher has had great difficulty just trying to stay in business and why more than half have, in fact, not been able to stay in business.

To give the mink industry at least a modicum of protective cover, I introduced H.R. 10670, which provides that up to 40 percent of domestic consumption can be imported duty free and thereafter there must be a 50-percent ad valorem assessed. This would provide foreign mink ranchers access to the American market, but would preserve 60 percent of the American market for the American rancher.

Mr. Chairman, I have tried to draw attention to just a few instances in which our domestic industries are in jeopardy by virtue of ever-growing imports. As you know, under our Trade Agreement Act of 1962 we gave the administration the power to cut tariffs by 50 percent for reciprocal tariff concessions from our GATT (General Agreements on Tariff and Trade) partners. Under the tariffs that went into effect on January 1, 1968, we are now beginning to see how our major trading partners are exploiting the concessions we gave them.

Already the trend shows that in most instances where we cut our tariffs our free world friends are literally swamping our markets. I say swamping because that means driving out our own production. By and large, most foreign goods are produced at labor rates far lower than ours. Our low tariffs do not provide an equalizer on a real competitive basis.

Mr. Chairman, the record shows that since 1934 the United States has led the way in abolishing artificial tariff barriers and initiating lower tariff rates, all on the basis of fairness in international competition. We have tried not only to be free traders but fair traders as well.

Yet, most foreign countries who are members of GATT feel free to add all imaginable types of taxes to our export goods so as to protect their domestic industries. We are appalled by the array of border taxes, turnover taxes, use taxes, subsidy payments, and other protection devices that enhance their own exports, but prove to be extremely onerous for our exports to them.

Congress is being importuned from all sides for at least a variable quota based on annual consumption totals or we should institute similar border taxes as other countries are doing. We already know what the inevitable result will be.

Our ostensible trading partners will invoke GATT rules against us by asking for extensive waivers not to grant tariff cuts to us, or

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