



United States Senate

Import Robo Letter - No. 1

October 31, 1967

Dear :

A dozen major industries have complained about the impact that the swelling volume of imports is having on their ability to compete in our domestic market and these imports affect domestic employment as well. Other industries have complained about the failure of our representatives to secure a removal of non-tariff barriers to trade by foreign countries, which barriers limit our ability to export to a greater degree, in many instances, than do tariffs. Accordingly, the Senate Finance Committee felt that these problems deserved attention and as a result, hearings were held on October 18, 19 and 20 and these hearings were very well attended. Additional hearings will be held.

I believe everyone agrees that the exploration now in progress by the Senate Finance Committee is, in itself, an excellent thing. The entire trade picture has long been in need of a thorough review, and the interest manifested by the number of people who have appeared at the hearings is an assurance that the economic health of the country, whether it relates to agriculture, steel, mining, oil, manufacturing or any other item, will be very carefully considered.

This is where the matter presently stands, and in due course the Finance Committee will give this further attention after the disposition of the pending social security bill.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

Import Robo on Social Security

October 31, 1967

Dear :

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Consideration was given to the possibility of attaching quota legislation to the Social Security bill pending in Finance Committee. As you know, the Senate can only add such legislation to House passed measures and cannot originate legislation, itself. However, when it appeared that such action by the Committee might delay the Social Security bill, this idea of adding quotas as an amendment was discarded. I expect the Committee will complete action very shortly on the Social Security legislation.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

ROBO IMPORT

December 2, 1967

Dear :

The Finance Committee has completed three days of hearings on various trade legislation that has been introduced during this Session. These hearings were held because of the complaints of a dozen or more industries over the impact that the swelling volume of imports is having on their ability to compete in our domestic market. Labor spokesmen for the steel workers indicated the impact that imports of steel is having on domestic employment. The witnesses also indicated that various foreign countries are resorting more and more to non-tariff barriers as a means of keeping American products out of foreign markets.

I believe everyone agrees that the exploration now in progress by the Senate Finance Committee is, in itself, an excellent thing. The entire trade picture has long been in need of a thorough review, and the interest manifested by the number of people who have appeared at the hearings is an assurance that the economic health of the country, whether it relates to agriculture, steel, mining, oil, manufacturing or any other item, will be very carefully considered.

The Committee will continue its work on this problem over the next few weeks and I anticipate that early in the coming year, a decision will be made as to how we should meet this problem that the American industry faces.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen