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SENATE }

REPORT
No. 1487

SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON CERTAIN SHOE LATHES

APRIL 28, 1958.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 10792]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10792) to continue for 2 years the existing suspension of duties on certain lathes used for shoe last roughing or for shoe last finishing, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H. R. 10792 is to continue for 2 years, until August 7, 1960, the existing suspension of duties on copying lathes used for making rough or finished shoe lasts from models of shoe lasts and capable of producing more than one size shoe from a single size model of a shoe last.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Your committee's bill would continue for 2 years the existing suspension of duties on a highly specialized and expensive type of machinery used by the shoe manufacturing industry which can only be obtained from foreign sources. Prior to August 6, 1956, the type of lathes concerned were subject to duty, but effective August 6, 1956, they were transferred to the free list for a period of 2 years by Public Law 1012, 84th Congress.

Shoe lasts constitute highly necessary and important equipment in the manufacture of shoes. The shoe last itself is a reproduction, generally of maplewood, of the approximate shape of the human foot over which leather or other material is placed in the process of production of shoes. The lathes used for making these shoe lasts are built for turning irregular shapes, and are so constructed that not only can exact duplicates (and reverse duplicates) of a model last be turned but also enlarged or reduced turned products from master models can be produced.

The United States Tariff Commission has stated that, on the basis of a spot check of customs documents—

the Commission believes that the number of lathes imported under the exemption have been small, probably not as many as 10.

Favorable departmental reports were made on this legislation, including a report from the Department of Commerce which reiterates its prior view that removing the duty on these lathes would benefit the domestic shoe last manufacturing industry and the consumer, with no overriding detriment to domestic equipment producers and at a minor loss to the Federal Government.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PUBLIC LAW 1012, 84TH CONGRESS

AN ACT To suspend for two years the import duties on certain lathes used for shoe last roughing or for shoe last finishing, and to permit substitution for drawback purposes in the case of printing papers

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That paragraph 1643 of the Tariff Act of 1930 is amended by inserting immediately after "shoe machinery," the following: "copying lathes used for making rough or finished shoe lasts from models of shoe lasts and, in addition, capable of producing more than one size shoe last from a single size model of a shoe last,".

SEC. 2. The amendment made by *the first section of this Act* shall apply only in the case of articles entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after [the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the expiration of two years after such date.] *August 6, 1956, and before August 7, 1960.*

Section 313 (b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, is amended by inserting after "linseed oil," wherever it appears the following: "or printing papers, coated or uncoated,".

Approved August 6, 1956.

