

September 9, 1965

H.R. 7969 - TARIFF SCHEDULES TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1965  
SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

There were 116 Senate amendments to the bill. Of these 38 were substantive changes; the remainder were clerical and conforming changes.

SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS

Edible Preparations - Animal Feeds (Amendment 5) - The conferees accepted this Senate amendment assuring that acids and other chemical products (and nonmetal minerals) will be dutiable under the chemicals schedules (or the nonmetal mineral schedules) rather than as animal feed or edible preparations. (This generally involves duty increases.)

Wild Rice (Amendment 6) - This amendment, agreed to by the conferees, makes wild rice specifically dutiable at 5 percent (rather than 1.5 cents per pound).

Cork (Amendment 11) - This amendment was approved by the conferees. Subsection (a) involves only technical refinement of the language of the House bill. Subsection (b) is new; it makes a technical clarification in the cork floor-covering provision.

Particleboard (Amendments 12 and 116) - These amendments were modified as follows: The conferees agreed to reinstate the House provision (amendment 12) making the duty on particleboard 20%, except that particleboard manufactured from virola, pterocarpus and triplaris wood is to be dutiable at 12 percent. Amendment 116 was deleted.

Used Bags (Amendment 18) - This amendment provides duty-free treatment for imported fabric recovered from used coffee and sugar (and other) bags imported suitable for wrapping cotton bales. It was approved.

Pigments (Amendment 26) - This amendment assures that certain compounds will continue to be dutiable as "pigments" even though they are not used chiefly to impart color. The new test, approved by the conferees, is that they be "commonly known as pigments and suitable for use in imparting color".

Synthetic Diamond Dust (Amendment 28) - The conferees accepted this amendment making synthetic diamond dust duty-free in the same manner as dust from natural diamonds (rather than dutiable at 15 percent).

Iron Ore (Amendment 31) - This amendment insures that sintered iron ore and iron pellets will continue to be free of duty. It was approved.

Aluminum (Amendment 34) - This amendment was deleted by the conferees. It would have provided that continuous cast aluminum imported for purposes other than to be (a) melted, (b) rolled, (c) forged, (d) drawn, (e) extruded, or (f) used for sacrificial purposes, could be dutiable at 2.5¢ per pound (rather than 1.25¢).

Permanent Magnets (Amendments 38 and 112) - The conferees reinstated the House provision (amendment 38) fixing the duty on all permanent magnets at 16 percent (rather than 18 percent). They also agreed to amendment 112 permitting past importations of magnets for ignition magnetos to be entered at a duty of 8.5 percent.

Shoe Machinery (Amendment 52) - This amendment approved by the conferees assures continued duty-free treatment for (a) knives used in shoe machines; (b) parts of shoe last turning lathes; and (c) shuttles and other parts (except needles) used in shoe sewing machines.

Machine Clothing (Amendment 53) - This amendment makes technical amendments to eliminate a conflict between a specific provision in the machine clothing schedule and a headnote. It was approved.

Pipe Organ Blowers (Amendment 54) - This amendment treats pipe organ blowers specifically at 10 percent rather than as "fans and blowers" at 14 percent. It was agreed to by the conferees.

Cast Iron Rollers (Amendment 57) - This amendment, providing that the duty on rough, nonmalleable cast iron rollers is to be 3 percent as under the old tariff structure, was agreed to.

Bowling Pin-setters (Amendment 58) - This amendment, which would have reclassified pinsetting machines, with a minor rate increase, was deleted.

Agricultural Parts (Amendments 60, 61, 62, and 63) - These amendments were adopted by the conferees. They insure continued duty-free treatment for certain parts used on agricultural implements, including engines imported for installation in any agricultural implement (amendment 60); and tires (amendment 62); and tubes (amendment 63); for agricultural purposes. Duty-free treatment is also assured for agricultural (a) pillar blocks; (b) pulleys; (c) shaft couplings; (d) speed changers and parts; (e) sprockets; (f) universal joints; (g) torque convertors; and (h) gear boxes (amendment 61).

Bean Sorters (Amendment 64) - This amendment was deleted. It would have provided duty-free treatment (rather than 12 percent) for certain machines which sort small fruits, nuts, beans, peas, etc. into "good" and "bad".

Speed Changers (Amendment 67) - This amendment was approved. It adds "variable ratio" speed changers to the types of speed changers dutiable at 9 percent (rather than at the compound duty of \$2.25 each plus 35 percent ad valorem). A hydrostatic transmission is an example of the article involved.

Dictaphones (Amendment 69) - This amendment reduces the duty on dictation machines using non-magnetizable tape to 11.5 percent (from 15 percent) to conform to the duty treatment of other dictation machines. It was approved by the conferees.

Color T. V. Tubes (Amendment 72) - The conferees agreed to the amendment continuing a 12 percent rate for color picture tubes until August 31, 1969. Thereafter, the duty on color picture tubes would be increased to 30 percent. The 30 percent rate (rather than 12 percent) in the House bill for black and white television picture tubes was agreed to.

Protective Footwear (Amendment 75) - This amendment was modified by the conferees. It (1) eliminates the American Selling Price method of valuing boots, galoshes, and overshoes of natural rubber and (2) increases the duty on similar articles of synthetic rubber or plastics. Under the amendment these articles generally will be treated alike at the following rates:

- (a) Shoes of polyvinyl chloride - - - - - 12.5%
- (b) Overshoes, both natural and synthetic - - - - - 25. %
- (c) Other, including galoshes, boots, etc. - - - - - 37.5%

(Under present law the duty is 12.5 percent, and if the product is of natural rubber the duty is based on the American Selling Price.)

Anesthetic Apparatus (Amendment 80) - This amendment adds "parts" to the anesthetic apparatus dutiable at 19 percent (rather than 36 percent). It was agreed to by the conferees.

P. T. Film Base (Amendment 86) - This amendment was deleted by the conferees. It would have reduced the duty on polyethylene terephthalate film base that has been coated with a plastic material to prepare it for the application of a light-sensitive emulsion.

Models (Amendment 90) - This amendment is in two parts. The conferees agreed to restore the prior treatment of certain precision-scale model ships, planes, spacecraft and vehicles by fixing the duty at 16 percent (rather than 35 percent). However, they deleted the amendment which would have reduced the duty on certain train track layouts to 16 percent, down from 35 percent.

Button Blanks (Amendment 92) - This amendment reflects the text of H. R. 7621 as passed by the House. It corrects an avoidance device under which almost-finished polyester buttons are imported as "button blanks" at 36 percent, rather than as "buttons" at a rate of 0.75 cents per line per gross plus 12.5 percent ad valorem. The amendment makes these almost-finished buttons dutiable at button rates (approximately 140 percent), but permits raw button blanks to continue to come in at the 36 percent rate. The conferees accepted the amendment.

Buckle Slides (Amendment 94) - This amendment adds "parts" to the category for buckles and buckle slides dutiable at 19 percent rather than 55 percent. The conferees agreed to it.

Zipper Parts (Amendments 97 and 112) - These amendments were rejected. Amendment 97 would have made textile tapes without teeth dutiable at 50 percent (rather than 20 percent as under the House bill), while Amendment 112 would have provided relief with respect to prior importations of such zipper tape.

Brooms of Broom Corn (Amendment 100) - This amendment, approved by the conferees, provides a tariff quota on certain brooms and whisk brooms made of broomcorn. The present duty on these brooms is 25 percent.

Brooms. - Under the amendment, 205,000 dozen brooms may be entered at the following rates:

Brooms valued not over 96 cents each..... 20 percent  
Brooms valued over 96 cents each..... 32 percent  
Brooms entered in excess of this quota would be dutiable at 32 cents each if valued not over 96 cents, or at 32 percent if valued over 96 cents.

Whisk Brooms. - In the case of whisk brooms, 115,000 dozen may be entered at the following rates:

Whisk brooms valued not over 32 cents each..... 20 percent  
Whisk brooms valued over 32 cents each..... 32 percent  
Whisk brooms entered in excess of this quota would be dutiable at 12 cents each if valued not over 32 cents, or at 32 percent if valued over 32 cents.

The amendment also provides for an increase in the specified quotas whenever the domestic consumption increases substantially.

Sausage Casings (Amendment 106) - This amendment provides that cellulose sausage casings are to be dutiable at 25.5 percent while non-cellulosic casings are to be dutiable at 12.5 percent. Under the House bill they would all have been dutiable at 12.5%. The amendment was approved.

Aluminum Electrodes (Amendment 110) - This amendment, approved by the conferees, provides that electrodes imported to be used in producing aluminum may be imported duty-free until July 16, 1966. At present such electrodes are dutiable at 12.5 percent.

Beach Bags (Amendment 112) - This amendment was adopted. It provides a retroactive relief for importers of rubber lined beach bags (and similar articles). It provides that articles imported in the period September 1, 1963-September 1, 1964, are to be treated as if the duty had been 20 percent rather than 40 percent.

Multigap Spectrograph (Amendment 113) - This provision was rejected. It would have permitted duty-free entry of a multigap magnetic spectrograph for Yale University.

Picker Sticks (Amendment 114) - This amendment would have provided that semi-processed picker sticks (generally the densified wood such sticks are made from) were to be dutiable at 14 percent (rather than 20 percent). It was rejected by the conferees.

Pulp-drying Machines (Amendment 115) - This amendment was rejected. It would have reduced the duty on certain pulp-drying machines which are used in paper-making processes to 7 percent (from 12.5 percent).