

## TRADE AGREEMENTS EXTENSION ACT OF 1951

MAY 31, 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. COOPER, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

### CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1612]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 1612) to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 5:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 5, and agree to the same with the following amendments:

On page 2 of the Senate engrossed amendments, strike out lines 12, 13 and 14, and insert the following: *imported into the United States in such increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious injury to the.*

On page 3 of the Senate engrossed amendments, strike out lines 12 and 13, and insert the following: *increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious.*

On page 4 of the Senate engrossed amendments, strike out lines 4, 5, and 6, and insert the following: *cession, being imported in such increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious injury to the.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

## Amendment numbered 6:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 6, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

On page 6 of the Senate engrossed amendments, line 11, strike out "20" and insert: 25.

And the Senate agree to the same.

## Amendment numbered 9:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 9, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

*Sec. 11. The President shall, as soon as practicable, take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the importation of ermine, fox, kolinsky, marten, mink, muskrat, and weasel furs and skins, dressed or undressed, which are the product of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or of Communist China.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

R. L. DOUGHTON,  
JERE COOPER,  
JOHN D. DINGELL,  
W. D. MILLS,  
DANIEL A. REED,  
THOMAS JENKINS,  
RICHARD M. SIMPSON,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

WALTER F. GEORGE,  
TOM CONNALLY,  
HARRY F. BYRD,  
E. D. MILLIKIN,  
ROBERT A. TAFT,

*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*

## STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 1612) to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and for other purposes, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

Amendment No. 1: This amendment provides that the authority of the President to enter into foreign trade agreements is extended for 2 years from June 12, 1951, instead of 3 years, as provided by the House bill. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 2: This amendment deletes the prohibition contained in the House bill against participation by members, officers, and employees of the Tariff Commission in the making of decisions with respect to the proposed terms of any foreign trade agreement or in the negotiation of any such agreement. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 3: This amendment is clerical. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 4: The House bill would have required the President within 90 days to withdraw or prevent the application of reduced tariffs or other concessions contained in any future trade agreement to imports from Communist areas of the world. The Senate amendment requires that such action be taken with respect to concessions made in past, as well as future, trade agreements, and requires that action be taken "as soon as practicable." Under the Senate amendment, the President would also have discretion merely to suspend, as well as to withdraw or prevent the application of, concessions. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 5: The House bill provided a procedure under which, upon the request of the President, upon its own motion, or upon application of any interested party, the Tariff Commission would make an investigation to determine whether any article upon which a concession had been granted in a trade agreement containing an escape clause is being imported under such relatively increased quantities, or under such conditions as to cause and threaten serious injury to a domestic industry, or a segment of such industry which produces a like or directly competitive article. The Senate amendment requires that an escape clause be included in all future trade agreements, and directs the President as soon as practicable to insert an escape clause in all existing trade agreements. In this latter respect, the President is required to report to the Congress on the action taken by him. Under the Senate amendment the escape clause procedure can be initiated upon the request of the President, upon resolution of either House of Congress, or upon resolution of either the Committee on Finance of the Senate, or the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, upon application of any interested party, or by the Tariff Commission upon its own motion.

Under the House bill the investigation of the Tariff Commission was to determine whether an article is being imported under such relatively increased quantities, or under such conditions as to cause or threaten serious injury to a domestic industry, or a segment of such industry which produces a like or directly competitive article.

The Senate amendment made it the responsibility of the Tariff Commission to make an investigation and report thereon within 1 year after application under the escape clause to determine whether an article is being imported into the United States in such relatively increased quantities (compared to a representative period prior to the concession) as to cause or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products. The House recedes with an amendment making it the responsibility of the Tariff Commission to determine whether any product upon which a concession has been granted under a trade agreement is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products.

The Senate amendment also clarifies and spells out in greater detail the procedure to be followed by the Tariff Commission and the President in conducting an investigation and in taking recommended action.

Amendment No. 6: Section 8 of the House bill provided that no trade agreement concession should apply with respect to any agricultural commodity for which price support is available to producers in the United States, unless the domestic price of the imported article exceeds the price support level. In lieu of this provision, the Senate amendment prevents any trade agreement from being applied in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and requires the Tariff Commission and the President to act within 20 calendar days after report by the Secretary of Agriculture to the President and the Tariff Commission that a condition exists with respect to a perishable agricultural commodity requiring emergency treatment. The Tariff Commission is required to make an immediate investigation under the provisions of section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, or under the escape clause procedure of this bill, but the President may take immediate action without awaiting the recommendations of the Tariff Commission. The House recedes with an amendment fixing the maximum limitation upon the investigation and report of the Tariff Commission and the decision of the President at 25 days, with the understanding that it is not intended that action be delayed for this length of time, but that action be taken as expeditiously as practicable.

Amendment No. 7: This amendment, for which there was no corresponding provision in the House bill, restores the right of the domestic producer to appeal to a customs court if he feels that he is being injured by the incorrect classification of an imported article. This right had been terminated by the Trade Agreement Act of 1934 with respect to products covered in trade agreements. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 8: This amendment makes clear that enactment of the bill is not to be construed as approval or disapproval by the Congress of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade. The House recedes.

Amendment No. 9: This amendment adds a new section providing relief for the domestic fur industry by imposing a quota of 25 percent of the domestic production during the preceding year upon imports of mink, silver fox, and muskrat furs and skins, respectively. The House recedes with an amendment under which the President is required as soon as practicable to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the importation of ermine, fox, kolinsky, marten, mink, muskrat, and weasel furs and skins, dressed or undressed, which are the product of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or of Communist China.

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