Tariff Commission Investigation of Imports of Lead and Zine

The United States Government, referring to an investigation by the United States Tariff Commission of imports of lead and zinc, has sent the following communication to the Executive Secretary:

".... on 24 April the Tariff Commission unanimously found that the domestic industry was being injured by the increased imports of these products.

"The Commission, however, was divided three-to-three on recommendations for action to be taken.

"One group of Commissioners made the following recommendations:
(1) A maximum permissible increase in the duties on unmanufactured lead articles included in tariff paragraphs 391 and 392 (except for Babbitt metal, solder, lead in sheets, pipe, shot, glazier's lead and lead wire) and on unmanufactured zinc articles included in tariff paragraphs 393 and 394 (except zinc dust and zinc in sheets). The recommended new rates of duty are as follows: lead bearing ores, 1 4/5 cents per pound lead content; lead pigs and bars, 2 11/20 cents per pound lead content; zinc bearing ores 1 4/5 cents per pound lead content; zinc blocks, pigs or slabs, 2 1/10 cents per pound; and old and worn-out zinc and skimmings 2 1/4 cents per pound. (2) An annual import quota limitation of 221,700 short tons of unmanufactured lead (lead content) and 325,600 short tons of unmanufactured zinc (zinc content of ores and gross weight others) be applied. These quotas would not apply to imports for government stockpiling or to duty-free imports for export. The quota would be set up on a quarterly basis and allocated to the principal exporting countries. These quotas are the equivalent of 50 per cent of the 1953-57 average of dutiable imports of these goods.

"The second group of Commissioners recommended: (1) The reimposition of the 1930 Tariff Act duties; that is, lead-bearing ore, 1 1/2 cents per pound lead content; lead pigs and bars, 2 1/8 cents per pound lead content; zinc bearing ores 1 1/2 cents per pound zinc content; zinc blocks, pigs and slabs, 1 3/4 cents per pound; and old and worn-out zinc and skimmings, 1 1/2 cents per pound; and (2) no quota limitations.

"These recommendations have been submitted to the President, who has sixty days in which to make his decision."