UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

FOOTWEAR FOR WOMEN AND PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR FOR MEN, WOMEN, BOYS, AND INFANTS: BGS SHOE CORP., MANCHESTER, N.H.

Report to the President on Firm Investigation No. TEA-F-53 Under Section 301(c)(1) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962



TC Publication 606 Washington, D.C. August 1973

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REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

U.S. Tariff Commission, August 24, 1973

To the President:

In accordance with section 301(f)(1) and 301(f)(3) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (TEA) (76 Stat. 885), the U.S. Tariff Commission herein reports the results of an investigation made under section 301(c) (1) of the act.

On June 26, 1973, the Commission received a petition filed on behalf of BGS Shoe Corp., Manchester, N.H., for a determination of the firm's eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance under the said act. On July 3, 1973, the Commission instituted investigation No. TEA-F-53 1/ to determine whether, as a result in major part of concessions granted under trade agreements, articles like or directly competitive with footwear (of the types provided for in items 700.20, 700.43, 700.45, 700.53, and 700.55 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS)) produced by the aforementioned firm are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to cause, or threaten to cause, serious injury to such firm.

Public notice of the investigation was published in the <u>Federal</u>

<u>Register</u> (38 F.R. 18415) on July 10, 1973. A public hearing was held on July 27, 1973, when all interested parties were afforded opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard.

^{1/} On July 16, 1973, the Commission reported its findings on investigation No. TEA-W-193 under sec. 301(c)(2) of the TEA with respect to the workers and former workers of BGS Shoe Corp.

In addition to information that was presented at the public hearing, information was also obtained principally by means of "field investigations" including interviews with the former workers of BGS who had previously petitioned the Commission, with officials and customers of BGS Shoe Corp., and from the Commission's files.

Finding of the Commission

On the basis of its investigation, the Commission finds (Chairman Bedell and Commissioner Moore dissenting) that articles like or directly competitive with the footwear (of the types provided for in items 700.20, 700.43, 700.45, 700.53, and 700.55 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States) produced by BGS Shoe Corp., Manchester, New Hampshire, are not, as a result in major part of concessions granted under trade agreements, being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to cause, or threaten to cause, serious injury to such firm.

Considerations Supporting the Commission's Findings Views of Vice Chairman Parker and Commissioner Ablondi

The BGS Shoe Corp., Manchester, N.H., operated four establishments in recent years, three producing footwear and one producing footwear components. The only plant still in operation produces slush-molded protective boots--for men, women, boys, children, and infants. Similar protective footwear was also produced at the Pittsfield, N.H. Division. The Bee Bee Shoe Co. Division, of Manchester, N.H., produced conventional women's dress and casual shoes, including women's fashion boots (a type of dress footwear). The Pittsfield plant, mentioned above, also performed stitching operations on the boots made at the Bee Bee Division. The Trend'Tec Division, of Manchester, N.H., produced component parts which were used by BGS in the manufacture of both dress and casual and protective footwear.

Our determination in this proceeding is in the negative because, in our judgment, the statutory criteria have not been met.

With respect to protective slush-molded boots, we reaffirm our earlier determination in the BGS Shoe Corp. worker investigation, that articles like or directly competitive with protective footwear being produced by BGS are not being imported in increased quantities and, therefore, under the first statutory criterion a negative determination is required. 1/ Furthermore, production of these articles by BGS has been profitable, production is expanding, and therefore

^{1/} See Footwear for Women and Protective Footwear for Men, Women, Boys, and Infants, and Parts of Such Footwear: BGS Shoe Corp., Manchester, N.H., Report to the President on Worker Investigation No. TEA-W-193..., TC Publication 592, July 1973.

increased imports of such footwear are not causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury to the firm.

With respect to BGS' production of women's dress and casual footwear, we have made a negative determination because, in our judgment, increased imports resulting from trade-agreement concessions of articles like or directly competitive with the women's dress and casual shoes produced by the BGS Shoe Corp., have not been the major factor causing, ot threatening to cause serious injury to the firm.

Although imports of dress and casual footwear have undoubtedly been a competitive factor, it is clear that other factors played a more important role in the financial difficulties of the company and in the cessation of production of women's dress and casual footwear. These factors include the sudden decline in popularity of, and loss of markets for , women's fashion boots and the failure of the firm to keep pace with changing consumer demand and to shift rapidly to other footwear styles for which demand was increasing.

The investigative report discloses that the firm had operated successfully until mid-1972, when the market for fashion boots, particularly "stretch" boots, declined sharply because of the loss of consumer popularity. The Bee Bee Division of BGS for several years had been shifting increasingly to the production of "stretch" fashion boots. By 1971/72 about *** of its dress footwear sales consisted of fashion boots. Sales of fashion boots, mostly "stretch," increased from *** pairs, valued at *** in fiscal 1967/68 to *** pairs, valued at *** in 1971/72. However, with the

sudden loss in popularity and decline in demand for fashion boots in 1972, sales by BGS of such boots dropped in fiscal year 1972/73 to

*** pairs with a value of * * * * , a decline of ***percent in quantity and ***percent in value. Moreover, because of the decline in demand in 1972, sales of such boots in fiscal 1972/73 were at reduced prices—the average unit value of BGS' sales of fashion boots declined from *** per pair in fiscal 1971/72 to *** in fiscal 1972/73. In addition, Mr. Arnold Cohen, former president, stated that BGS suffered unusually high returns of such boots and was forced to make large write downs in values of raw material, of work in process, and in inventories of finished boots; he also stated that those factors combined with the costs associated with the closing of the Pittsfield Plant led to the firm's huge loss from operations in fiscal year 1972/73.

shoes. Such shoes had accounted for a large part of the Bee Bee
Division's sales. However in 1970 when stretch boots became
fashionable, sales by BGS of traditional dress and casual shoes
declined sharply as management concentrated its effort on the production
and sales of fashion boots, especially stretch boots. It is noteworthy
that the firm made a substantial profit in fiscal year 1971/72 despite
the fact that sales of the more traditional styles of dress and casual
shoes in that year were about *** percent below the level of such sales
in fiscal year 1967/68. The firm's financial difficulties which resulted
in the Chapter XI bankruptcy petition did not occur until the following
year (fiscal 1972/73) when the preciptious decline in demand for fashion

boots took place while the firm was continuing to produce these boots in volume. Because of its failure to keep abreast of changes in style, sales declined and the firm incurred substantial losses not caused by imports. That failure to produce and market the styles which were in demand was corroborated by many of the firm's customers in a comprehensive and detailed survey of the firm's customers made by the Commission's staff.

The financial data furnished the Commission by BGS showed substantial differences in selling and administrative expenses in fiscal year 1971/72 for the firm as a whole and its operating divisions, a large part of which was not accounted for nor explained by management.

We find that the loss of the market for fashion boots and management's failure to keep abreast of style changes were the major factors that caused the decline in sales and the accompanying financial difficulties of BGS. The role of imports, although obviously a factor, was not the major factor as required for an affirmative determination under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Indeed the customer survey made by the Commission's staff shows that of the relatively small percentage of customers of the firm that shifted to imports, only a few indicated that they did so because of price alone. More often, the shift was due to style, quality, service, or a combination of those factors. The preponderance of the customers who reduced their purchases shifted to other domestic sources or reduced their purchases for reasons unrelated to imports.

Based on the foregoing considerations, we have made a negative determination.

Views of Commissioners Leonard and Young

Our determination in this investigation is in the negative because the criteria established by section 301(c)(1) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (TEA) have not been met. Before an affirmative determination can be made, the Commission must find that each of the following conditions has been satisfied:

- (1) Articles like or directly competitive with the footwear produced by the petitioning firm are being imported in increased quantities;
- (2) The increased imports are a result in major part of concessions granted under trade agreements;
- (3) The petitioning firm is being seriously injured or threatened with serious injury; and
- (4) The increased imports, resulting in major part from trade-agreement concessions, are the major factor causing or threatening to cause serious injury to the firm.

In the instant case, we find that condition (1) has not been satisfied with respect to protective footwear, i.e., that the articles like or directly competitive with the slush-molded protective footwear produced by the Prevue Products Co. Division, Manchester and Pittsfield, N.H., plants of the BGS Shoe Corp. are being imported in increased quantities. Our determination is based on the following considerations.

Imports of protective footwear have remained fairly constant during the past ten years. Imports, which amounted to about 15 million pairs in 1962, averaged slightly under 13 million pairs during 1963-72.

We also find that condition (2) has not been met with respect to the other products of BGS, women's fashion boots and women's dress and casual shoes, namely, that the increase in imports of footwear like or directly competitive with that produced by the Bee Bee Shoe Co. Division, Manchester and Pittsfield, N.H., plants of BGS is the result in major part of concessions granted under trade agreements. Our reasoning in support of this determination is set forth in statements of our views in earlier Commission investigations under the Trade Expansion Act. 1/

^{1/} Commissioner Leonard's views are given in Nonrubber Footwear:
Report to the President on Investigation No. TEA-I-18 . . . , TC Publication 359, January 1971, pp. 31-47, and Commissioner Young's views are given in Women's Dress and Casual Shoes: Duchess Footwear Corp., . . . , Report to the President on Firm Investigation No. TEA-F-39 and Worker Investigation No. TEA-W-139 . . . , TC Publication 491, June 1972, pp. 11-25.

Dissenting Views of Chairman Bedell and Commissioner Moore

This investigation originated by reason of a petition filed by BGS Shoe Corp., Manchester, N.H., for a determination of its eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance under section 301(a)(1) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (TEA). BGS has been in business since 1932 and over the years operated as many as eight plants, producing women's dress and casual shoes as the principal product. In recent years the firm operated four establishments, producing footwear or footwear component parts. The only plant presently in operation produces slushmolded protective-type boots--for men, women, boys, children, and infants. The firm also produced two types of women's footwear: (1) Women's dress and casual shoes, most of which had uppers of vinyl and were constructed by the cement process, retailing in the price range of \$8 to \$11 a pair; and (2) women's fashion boots with uppers of polyurethane and of leather, retailing, respectively, in the range of \$10 to \$15 and \$18 to \$22 a pair. The firm also produced component parts for both conventional and slush-molded footwear, all of which were used by BGS in the manufacture of its footwear.

The Trade Expansion Act of 1962 establishes four criteria to be met in order for an affirmative determination to be made in a firm case. The criteria are as follows:

- (1) An article like or directly competitive with an article produced by the firm must be imported in increased quantities;
- (2) The increased imports must be a result in major part of concessions granted under trade agreements;

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- (3) The petitioning firm must be seriously injured or threatened with serious injury; and
- (4) The increased imports resulting in major part from trade-agreement concessions must be the major factor in causing, or threatening to cause, the serious injury to the firm.

We find that each of the four criteria outlined above has been met; hence we have made an affirmative determination. Our determination is based on the following considerations.

Increased imports are a result in major part of trade-agreement concessions

During the last decade foreign-made women's dress and casual shoes have entered the U.S. market in rapidly increasing quantities.

Such imports increased from 67 million pairs in 1965 to 198 million pairs in 1972--or by almost 300 percent. Imported women's dress and casual shoes supplied less than 20 percent of the U.S. market in 1965; however, by 1972 they supplied almost 50 percent of domestic consumption.

The women's dress and casual footwear produced by BGS was similar in type, construction, and price to those involved in recent TEA investigations conducted by the Commission. We concluded in those investigations that, within the meaning of the statute, like or directly competitive footwear was being imported in increased quantities and that increased imports were in major part the result of tradeagreement concessions. Our considerations in support of those determinations, which are equally applicable in the instant case, are set forth in our opinions in earlier investigations involving women's footwear. 1/

^{1/} Women's Dress and Casual Shoes: Duchess Footwear Corp., Salem, Mass. Report to the President on Firm Investigation No. TEA-F-39 and Worker Investigation No. TEA-W-139 . . ., TC Publication 491, June 1972.

The firm is being seriously injured

The financial condition of BGS has deteriorated materially as a result of concession generated imports. Three plants producing footwear were closed in 1973 and only one plant is currently in operation. The firm has been forced to discontinue production of women's dress and casual shoes, and now produces only slush-molded boots. In addition, the firm sustained a net operating loss of nearly *** in fiscal year 1972/73 and, because of its precarious financial condition, filed a chapter XI bankruptcy petition in January 1973. Since April 27, 1973, it has been operating under a bankruptcy arrangement approved by the Federal District Court pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy act. Clearly, the firm is suffering serious injury.

Increased imports are the major factor causing the serious injury to the firm

Since the early 1930's, BGS produced predominately women's dress and casual footwear, at various plants in the United States. As noted above, U.S. imports of such footwear have increased substantially in recent years and the resultant penetration of the U.S. market achieved by such imports has seriously injured BGS since its principal market and customers were gradually lost to such imports.

Sales of women's dress and casual shoes by BGS, which had accounted for more than * * * of its total sales in the early 1960's, comprised only about * * * of total sales in fiscal year 1967/68 and less than * * * in fiscal 1972/73. Sales of such footwear declined from * * * pairs in fiscal year 1967/68 to * * * pairs in fiscal year 1972/73. The firm was forced to close its Marilyn Sandal Division in 1967, its Adina Footwear Division in 1968 and to sell its Buskens Division in 1968.

In response to the challenge presented by concession-generated imports, officials of BGS made every possible effort to stay abreast of current market conditions and fashion changes. BGS tried to offset import competition by intensive and continuing research and by the first bf its management to develop new products. The Prevue Products Co. Division, which produces slush-molded boots, founded in 1966, was one such effort. Another effort was BGS' expansion of its output of stretch boots in 1970 when such footwear became popular. Company officials were aware that such boots were strictly a fashion fad for which the

demand would disappear. BGS had the choice of either producing stretch boots or closing the Bee Bee factory. In 1972, the market for stretch boots declined sharply, and BGS' sales of such boots declined markedly. It was forced to close the Bee Bee factory in March 1973. A systematic effort was made by the firm during that period to try to find products to replace stretch boots. The firm employed every effort to meet both domestic and import competition. It developed and produced sophisticated injection-molded heels and soles of various types and flow-molded uppers for its women's footwear. Despite BGS' best efforts, however, the firm had been so weakened by the loss of its principal market due to the tidal wave of concession-generated imports of dress and casual shoes that it could not obtain sufficient capital to remain in business. As a result, BGS was forced into bankruptcy.

Evidence developed during the investigation reveals that the reason BGS was unable to stay in business was due to the loss of its customers who turned to the purchase of concession-generated imports of women's dress and casual footwear.

Some may contend that the bankruptcy and serious injury experienced by BGS was caused by a sudden drop in its sales of stretch boots owing to a fashion change. We disagree. We believe the facts show clearly that the company attempted to remain a viable corporate structure in the face of the onslaught of concession-generated imports of women's dress and casual shoes. BGS merely took advantage of a fashion whim when it produced stretch boots and saw it as a means of surviving long enough to solve the problem of competition from imported women's dress and casual footwear.

We believe that, in providing adjustment assistance for firms and workers under the provisions of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Congress did not intend to deny relief merely because a firm tried unsuccessfully to meet import competition. In this case, BGS should not be denied adjustment assistance merely because of its ability to remain solvent for a few years longer than could be reasonably expected.

In light of the facts developed during the investigation, we conclude that concession-generated increased imports are the major factor causing serious injury to the BGS Shoe Corporation. Accordingly, we have made an affirmative determination.

INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE INVESTIGATION

Description of Articles Under Investigation

The BGS Shoe Corp., of Manchester, N.H., has in recent years operated four establishments producing footwear or footwear components. The only plant now in operation, which is in Manchester, has produced slush-molded protective boots--for men, women, boys, children, and infants--that currently retail in the range of \$5 to \$14 a pair. Similar boots had also been produced at a plant in Pittsfield, N.H. Another establishment in Manchester, prior to the cessation of operations, produced two types of women's footwear: (1) Women's dress and casual shoes, most of which had uppers of vinyl and were constructed by the cement process, retailing in the price range of \$8 to \$11 a pair, and (2) women's fashion boots with uppers of polyurethane and of leather, retailing, respectively, in the range of \$10 to \$15 and \$18 to \$22 a pair. A third plant in Manchester produced component parts for both conventional and slush-molded footwear. Such parts included mostly nylon chain zippers, some urethane unit soles (resembling cork), styrene clogs and heels, and a very few styrene platforms and polyvinyl chloride unit soles. All such components except the zippers were produced by the injection-molded process. None of the components were marketed, since they were all used by BGS in the manufacture of footwear.

Women's dress and casual footwear

The principal features of women's shoes that determine the occasion or activity for which a particular pair is suitable--and thus the trade designations such as "dress," "casual," and "slippers"--are the cut of the uppers, the style and height of the heels, the material used for the uppers, the kind of ornamentation, and the material and construction of the sole. In general or commercial usage, however, these descriptive terms for footwear may have various meanings. Some of them are specifically defined for tariff purposes in the headnotes (including the statistical headnotes) to subpart 1A of schedule 7 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated (TSUSA). 1/

In terms of U.S. retail sales, so-called dress shoes (a term not defined in the TSUSA) are more important than any other type of footwear for women and misses. The term "dress shoes," originally limited only to shoes worn on formal occasions, is now used to describe footwear of the types generally worn for street wear and for business and social activities. Depending upon fashion designs, dress shoes may be open- or closed-heel shoes with straps, laces, or tongues over the instep and may include high-heeled sandals with open toes, open heels, and uppers of narrow strips of leather or other materials. Women's shoes intended for formal wear and regarded as dress shoes are sometimes referred to as evening shoes, slippers, or sandals. The term "dress shoes" does not include footwear especially made for athletic, occupational, and leisure activities.

The materials used for the uppers of dress shoes are usually finer (i.e., less sturdy) than those of other types of footwear.

^{1/} For further discussion of these descriptive terms plus additional information in regard to nonrubber footwear (e.g., factors affecting U.S. consumption and marketing channels), see U.S. Tariff Commission, Non-rubber Footwear: Report to the President on Investigation No. TEA-I-18

TC Publication 359, 1971.

Uppers may be of calf, kid, or reptile leathers; of silk, rayon, linen, satin, brocade, velvet, or metallic fabrics; or of supported vinyls or other plastics.

Women's footwear for casual wear, not considered dress shoes, includes certain sandals, wedge-heeled shoes, flats, clogs, loafers, desert boots, moccasins, and sneakers. Casual shoes usually have a lower heel than dress shoes and are constructed to withstand harder wear.

The range of styles and quality of footwear increased greatly during the 1960's as a result of new materials, technological developments in production, and new fashions in wearing apparel, and this trend has continued into the 1970's.

Simultaneously, consumer interest in a wider variety of footwear also increased, reflecting the changing age structure of the population, increasing per capita income, and a growth in time for leisure activities. Following these developments, the distinction between dress and casual shoes and attire diminished. Women's footwear styles began to fluctuate greatly as a result of frequent changes in women's fashions.

For many years the principal type of dress shoe worn by women in the United States was the classic pump--a closed-toe, closed-back, slip-on shoe without fasteners, with lightweight soles, and with heels of 2 inches or higher. With the advent of new fashions in wearing apparel, the pump declined in popularity in the late 1960's. In 1967 the chunky style ("monster") shoe appeared on the fashion scene and continued to be very popular until 1968; the chunky style marked the

beginning of a style revolution in women's footwear. In 1969 clogs (open-back scuffs, usually with a platform sole) became a popular fashion item, and they remain in vogue in 1973.

In the late 1960's, boots became fashionable, along with the miniskirt and other new dress fashions, and continued to be popular throughout 1970 and 1971. For many fashion-conscious women, boots replaced shoes as the type of footwear they wore, on many occasions, and thus somewhat diminished the demand for women's shoes. However, with the switch by women to other types of wearing apparel, such as pants suits, which did not complement boot designs, the market for boots diminished in 1972.

The 1970's also began a period in which footwear designs took a new direction owing to the changes in the length of women's dresses and the increasing popularity of pants suits and flared trousers for women. Double soles and wafers to 1-inch or higher platforms 1/ and heels became the main interest in shoe designs. New soling includes plantation crepe, leather combinations, inside or concealed platforms, and wedges. Bottom assemblies may be colored, painted, or sculptured. Materials used in uppers range from leather of all types to the newest manmade materials.

For several decades the principal method of attaching the outsoles to women's shoes has been the cement process (the method used by BGS Shoe on footwear produced at the Bee Bee Shoe Co. Division), whereby the outsole (or midsole, if any) is affixed to the upper by an adhesive without sewing. It is estimated that 80 percent of the total U.S. output of women's shoes in recent years (and probably an even higher percentage of the

^{1/} A platform is a thick heel-sole combination used in some styles of women's shoes.

domestic output of dress shoes) has been made by the cement process. This process permits narrow edges on the outsole to give a trim appearance and produces a lighter and more flexible shoe than other processes except the turn (or turned) process. In the turn process, which is currently used in very minor degree in the United States to produce dress shoes, 1/ the footwear is initially lasted inside out and then turned right side out for the finishing operations.

The great bulk of women's imported dress and casual shoes are entered under TSUS items 700.20, 700.43, 700.45, and 700.55. As explained briefly in the following paragraphs, the footwear classifiable under these four TSUS items varies with respect to materials, method of construction, price line, and/or style.

Imports entered under TSUS items 700.43 and 700.45, which provide for leather footwear having a foreign (export) value of not over \$2.50 a pair, and over \$2.50 a pair, respectively, consist predominantly of women's footwear in a wide range of styles, types, and prices. In terms of quantity, about half of the combined imports under these two items in recent years have consisted of women's sandals having a retail selling price of about \$3 to \$9 a pair. The remainder have probably consisted predominantly of women's cement-process dress shoes of moderate prices (i.e., in the retail-price range of \$8 to \$20 a pair) but have also included sturdy types with vulcanized or injection-molded soles, lightweight slippers suitable principally for housewear, and more expensive high-fashion types. Women's imported leather

^{1/} The turn process has been used in the United States in recent years principally to produce footwear of the types reported in official U.S. production statistics as slippers for housewear (SIC product code 3142). Slippers are also produced by the cement process

footwear made by the turn process and dutiable under TSUS item 700.20 does not differ significantly in appearance from the leather dress shoes entered under items 700.43 and 700.45; the imports of turned footwear under item 700.20 have been small.

Women's imported footwear with supported vinyl uppers, dutiable under TSUS item 700.55, has in recent years consisted predominantly of two groups: (1) Street shoes of sturdy construction, produced in a single width for each particular length and for sale mostly at \$3 to \$6 a pair at self-service counters in variety stores, discount stores, and department-store basements and (2) folding slippers and sandals, usually selling at retail for less than \$2 a pair. It is believed that before 1970 only a negligible portion of the annual imports of women's dress shoes and boots admitted under item 700.55 retailed at more than \$10 a pair. It is estimated that, in the years 1971-72, imports of such footwear retailing at more than \$10 a pair (mostly just over that price) accounted for less than 10 percent of the total imports.

Protective footwear

The automation of the slush-molding process has been the major development in the production of protective footwear during the past decade. In this process, which probably accounted for more than half of the domestic output of protective footwear in recent years, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in liquid form is poured into a heated mold; the mold is then inverted so that the excess liquid is drained from the mold. The PVC which adheres to the inside of the mold is kept

heated until it solidifies, after which the article is stripped from the mold and completed. Imports of PVC footwear in recent years have been relatively small.

The term "protective footwear" is generally used in this report to refer to the types of footwear entered under TSUS items 700.51, 700.52, and 700.53. Such footwear consists of hunting boots, galoshes, rainwear, and other footwear (including arctics and gaiters) designed to be worn over, or in lieu of, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, chemicals, cold, or inclement weather. For such types of footwear to be admitted under these three TSUS items, over 90 percent of the exterior surface area must be of rubber or plastics. 1/2/2 However, if imported footwear of this description has uppers of non-molded construction formed by sewing the parts thereof together and having exposed on the outer surface a substantial portion of functional stitching--a type of construction used for some styles of boots--it is admitted elsewhere, probably under item 700.55. Also, if boots of molded vinyl construction with fabric or fur cuffs are imported, they are admitted under item 700.60.

In the trade, footwear of the types provided for in the three TSUS items 700.51, 700.52, and 700.53 is usually called "waterproof footwear." The term "waterproof footwear," however, is generally used to refer not only to the footwear of rubber or plastics covered by the three TSUS items, but also to footwear which is of similar styles and uses but is of different construction or material. For example,

^{1/} For purposes of the tariff schedules, the term "rubber or plastics" means rubber, plastics, or a combination of both (headnote 1 to pt. 12 of schedule 7).

in the official production statistics published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the data on waterproof footwear (reported in SIC No. 3021) include arctics and gaiters with fabric uppers and probably also fashion boots of types not covered by the term "protective" as used to describe the articles in the TSUS items 700.51 to 700.53.

The imported footwear admitted under TSUS item 700.51 consists of protective footwear of polyvinyl chloride, most of which footwear has a dutiable value of about \$1 per pair; in recent years, imports have been small. The imported footwear admitted under TSUS item 700.52 consists of slipover rubbers having a dutiable value of less than \$1 a pair; in recent years, such imports have accounted for less than 10 percent of the total imports of protective footwear. The great bulk of the imports are admitted under TSUS item 700.53. Since the boots made by BGS are lined either with polyester pile or with nylon fleece laminated to polyurethane foam, footwear most similar to that which they produce would be imported under this TSUS item. Boots supported or lined with polyvinyl chloride enter under TSUS item 700.51; BGS did not make such boots. Imports under TSUS item 700.53 consist principally of boots for hunting, fishing, and work and of arctics. the average dutiable value of the boots admitted under this TSUS item was \$1.49 a pair and of the other footwear (principally arctics), \$1.66 a pair.

U.S. Tariff Treatment

Women's dress and casual footwear

In the Tariff Act of 1930, women's leather footwear of the type produced at BGS Shoe was originally dutiable under paragraph 1530(e) at 20 percent ad valorem. Such footwear is provided for in the TSUS, which became effective on August 31, 1963, under items 700.43 and 700.45. The rate of duty was reduced for the first time effective January 1, 1968, pursuant to concessions granted during the Kennedy Round of negotiations. The current rate for item 700.43 is 15 percent, and that for item 700.45 is 10 percent.

Prior to the Kennedy Round, the rate of duty on turn or turned shoes (now provided for under TSUS item 700.20) was first reduced on January 1, 1932, from 20 percent ad valorem to 10 percent, pursuant to section 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930. The 10-percent rate, which was bound against increase in a concession granted to Switzerland, effective February 15, 1936, was reduced to 5 percent pursuant to a concession, effective May 30, 1950, granted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The current rate for item 700.20 is 2.5 percent.

Supported vinyl was not used for uppers until the late 1940's or early 1950's. Prior to the effective date of the TSUS, imports of

women's supported-vinyl-upper footwear, which were dutiable under various provisions of the Tariff Act, were classified principally--

- (1) By similitude, at the rate of 20 percent ad valorem applicable to leather footwear provided for in paragraph 1530(e). 1/
- (2) Under paragraph 1537(b) as articles in chief value of rubber, at the trade-agreement rate of 12.5 percent ad valorem where the soles were of india rubber and constituted the chief value of the footwear in question.
- (3) Under paragraph 1539(b) at the reduced rate of 21 cents per pound plus 17 percent ad valorem where the footwear was in chief value of a product having a synthetic resin as the chief binding agent.

In the TSUS a rate of 12.5 percent ad valorem was established for item 700.55 as the trade-agreement rate to replace the wide range of rates previously applicable to the various types of footwear provided for in this item. 2/ The current rate on footwear with supported-vinyl uppers is 6 percent ad valorem.

Table 1 in the appendix shows the reductions in rates of duty resulting from trade-agreement concessions granted under the GATT for footwear of the types now dutiable under items 700.20, 700.43, 700.45, and 700.55. Tables 2 through 4 show U.S. imports of women's shoes admitted under the TSUS items mentioned above and the applicable rates of duty.

^{1/} The principal kinds of footwear with supported vinyl uppers now being imported (i.e., those with soles of vinyl or other plastics) would have been dutiable by virtue of the similitude provision at a rate of 20 percent ad valorem.

^{2/} The column 2 rate of duty for item 700.55 is 35 percent.

Protective footwear

Imported protective rubber footwear, consisting of boots, arctics, gaiters, and slipover rubbers, was directly classifiable for tariff purposes in paragraph 1537(b) of the original schedules of the Tariff Act of 1930 only if it was "wholly or in chief value of india rubber." Similar imported articles of synthetic rubber or of plastics were not of commercial significance until the 1950's. The President, acting on the basis of an investigation made by the Tariff Commission under section 336 of the 1930 Tariff Act, increased the duty on such footwear "in chief value of india rubber" by changing the basis for assessing the original statutory rate (25 percent ad valorem) from foreign (or export) value to the "American selling price" (as defined in sec. 402(g) of the 1930 act) of like or similar articles produced in the United States (T.D. 46158, effective March 3, 1933).

From 1933 until about 1959 virtually all U.S. imports of protective footwear were made of india (natural) rubber and were subject to the American selling price (ASP) basis of valuation. Pursuant to a trade-agreement concession granted by the United States under the GATT, the rate of duty applicable to such protective footwear (i.e., if wholly or in chief value of india rubber) valued at more than

\$6 per dozen pairs was reduced on April 21, 1948. This concession provided a specific duty of \$1.50 per dozen pairs for footwear valued at more than \$6 but less than \$12 per dozen pairs and an ad valorem rate of 12.5 percent of the ASP on more expensive footwear. During the effective period of the concession--April 21, 1948, to

September 9, 1955--most of the imports were dutiable at 12.5 percent of the ASP. Pursuant to another GATT concession, effective September 10, 1955, the rate on all protective footwear of natural rubber, regardless of unit value, became 12.5 percent of the ASP.

When protective footwear made of plastics and that made of synthetic rubber began to be imported in about 1959, the Treasury Department ruled that such footwear, by virtue of the similitude provision in paragraph 1559(a), was classifiable as protective footwear of natural rubber under paragraph 1537(b) and therefore dutiable at 12.5 percent ad valorem but was not subject to the ASP basis of valuation. 1/
The new tariff schedules that became effective on August 31, 1963 (the TSUS), reflected the tariff treatment resulting from the Treasury Department rulings. In the Second Supplemental Report to the Tariff Classification Study, issued June 29, 1962, the Tariff Commission commented on the two methods of valuation applicable to protective footwear as follows:

^{1/} The ruling with respect to plastic footwear was issued June 29, 19 $\overline{5}9$ (T.D. 54885(9)); the ruling on synthetic rubber footwear was issued on Feb. 12, 1962 (T.D. 55563(12)); and both rulings were affirmed on July 17, 1962 (T.D. 55663(5)).

The distinctions made under existing law with respect to the valuation of this footwear are technical in nature and result in an anomaly. Footwear of natural rubber or synthetic rubber, or combinations thereof, are not commercially distinguishable and should receive like treatment for value purposes. In view of the significant trade involved, and the fact that the Commission's present study is primarily a classification revision and consolidation, any correction of this valuation anomaly is a matter for legislative consideration.

Effective December 7, 1965, the Tariff Schedules Technical Amendments Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-241) eliminated the valuation anomaly described above by providing uniform tariff treatment for protective footwear, regardless of whether composed of natural or synthetic rubber or of plastics. Pursuant to that act, the ASP basis of valuation was no longer applicable to protective footwear; also TSUS item 700.50, under which all types of protective footwear had been admitted, was deleted and replaced by three new items--700.51, 700.52, and 700.53. For protective footwear having soles and uppers of which over 90 percent of the exterior surface area is polyvinyl chloride, 1/ the same rates of duty were provided in item 700.51 as in former item 700.50 (viz, 12.5 percent ad valorem in column 1, and 25 percent in column 2). For other types of protective footwear of rubber or plastics, higher rates of duty were provided in items 700.52 and 700.53 than in former item 700.50. On footwear of synthetic rubber and plastics, which has

^{1/} Such footwear, which may be supported or lined with PVC, but not otherwise supported or lined, is distinguishable from other types of protective footwear and generally does not compete with the more substantial, supported types of protective footwear (see U.S. Senate (89th Cong., 1st sess.), Rept. 530, p. 20).

comprised most of the imports in recent years, the new rates were 100 percent and 200 percent higher, respectively, than the previous rates. Under item 700.52, which provides for ankle-height, slip-on protective footwear, the column 1 rate is 25 percent ad valorem, and the column 2 rate, 50 percent ad valorem; under item 700.53, which provides for other protective footwear of rubber or plastics, the column 1 rate is 37.5 percent ad valorem, and the column 2 rate, 75 per-In negotiations between the United States and its cent ad valorem. trading partners under the GATT conducted in connection with the adoption by the United States of its new tariff schedules, these column 1 rates for TSUS items 700.51, 700.52, and 700.53, which are the current rates, were designated concession rates; the column 2 rates, pursuant to section 203 of the Tariff Classification Act of 1962 (TCA) represent the July 1, 1934, rates, i.e., the pre-tradeagreement rates. 1/

U.S. Consumption, Production, and Imports
Women's dress and casual footwear

During the period 1965-72, apparent annual U.S. consumption of all women's footwear (including dress and casual shoes and fashion boots) rose from an estimated 386 million pairs in 1965 to a peak of 455 million pairs in 1968, and then declined to 421 million pairs in 1972. Annual U.S. production of such footwear declined from 319 million pairs in 1965 to 223 million pairs in 1972. Annual imports almost tripled during this period, and their share of the market

^{1/} Under authority of the TCA (Public Law 87-456) a column 1 rate which is lower than the column 2 rate is a trade-agreement rate.

increased without interruption from 17 percent to 47 percent, as shown in the following tabulation:

Nonrubber footwear (dress and casual) for women: U.S. production, imports for consumption, and apparent consumption, 1965-72

Year	Production <u>1</u> /	Imports 2/	Apparent consumption 3/	: Ratio of : imports to : apparent : consumption
	Million pairs	Million pairs	Million pairs	: Percent
1965	319 : 323 : 290 : 322 : 271 : 260 : 237 : 223 :	67 : 70 : 96 : 133 : 139 : 165 : 180 : 198 :	386 393 386 455 410 425 417 421	: 17 : 18 : 25 : 29 : 34 : 39 : 43 : 47

^{1/} Production represents the output of women's and misses' footwear as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, plus shipments to the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico.

3/ Computed from U.S. production plus imports without an allowance for exports, which in 1972 amounted to about 1 million pairs.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

Data on U.S. consumption, production, and imports of fashion boots are not separately reported in official statistics but are believed to have increased in the late 1960's and until late 1972, when they probably declined.

^{2/} Partly estimated from the official statistics for footwear of the kinds described in pt. 1A of schedule 7 of the TSUS except imports described in items 700.32, 700.51, 700.52, 700.53, and 700.60 and except zoris (very inexpensive thonged sandals of rubber or plastics), dutiable under item 700.55. Includes imports of misses' footwear, which have been negligible compared with those of women's.

U.S. imports of women's footwear entered under TSUS items 700.20. 700.43, 700.45, and 700.55 in the aggregate accounted for 90 percent of the imports of nonrubber footwear in 1972. A negligible part of the imports were entered under item 700.20, about 15 percent under item 700.43, 30 percent under item 700.45, and 45 percent under item 700.55. As shown in table 5, in 1972 about 22 million pairs of imported footwear of leather, with an average dutiable value of about \$1.70 a pair, were entered under TSUSA items 700.4310 and 700.4340; about 51 million pairs of imported footwear of leather, with an average dutiable value of \$5.12 a pair, were entered under item 700.4540, and nearly 90 million pairs of imported footwear of vinyl, with an average dutiable value of \$1.22 a pair, were entered under item 700.5545. Although precise data are not available, it is believed that the major part of the lower valued imported footwear of leather and of vinyl consists of casual shoes; with respect to the higher valued imported footwear of leather, it is believed that a sizable share of these imports consisted of dress shoes. Italy and Spain have been the principal suppliers of women's leather footwear, and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Japan, the principal suppliers of women's vinyl footwear.

Data on U.S. consumption of women's dress shoes are not reported in official statistics. It is estimated, however, that during 1965-72 apparent annual U.S. consumption (production plus imports) of such footwear followed an irregular trend, rising from about 204 million pairs in 1965 to about 231 million in 1968, then declining to 200 million in 1972. Estimated domestic production of women's dress shoes during this period reached a peak of about 210 million pairs in 1968 and then declined to 150 million pairs in 1972. Estimated imports rose from 4 million pairs in 1965 to 50 million pairs in 1972. The share of apparent annual U.S. consumption of women's dress shoes supplied by imports increased from 2 percent in 1965 to 25 percent in 1972, as shown in the following table:

Dress footwear for women: U.S. production, imports for consumption, and apparent consumption, 1965-72

Year	Production $\frac{1}{2}$	Imports 2/	Apparent consumption 3/	: Ratio of imports to apparent consumption
	Million :	Million	: Million	
:	pairs :	pairs	pairs	Percent
:	;	-	•	•
1965	200 :	4	204	2
1966	206 :	7	213	: 3
1967	188 :	11	199	: 6
1968	210 :	21 :	231	9
1969	177 :	28	205	: 14
1970:	165 :	36	201	: 18
1971:	156 :	43	: 199	: 22
1972:	150 :	50 :	200	25
	:			•

^{1/} Dress shoes are believed to account for about 2/3 of the total annual output of nonrubber footwear for women and misses.

Source: Estimated by the U.S. Tariff Commission from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^{2/} Data represent estimated imports of dress shoes entered under TSUS items 700.20, 700.43, 700.45, and 700.55.

^{3/} Data represent estimated production plus estimated imports without an allowance for exports, which in 1972 amounted to less than 1 million pairs.

Data on U.S. consumption, production, and imports of women's casual shoes also are not reported separately in official statistics.

Estimates of these data are shown in the following table:

Women'	s	casual	foot	twear	::	Estima	ated	producti	on,	imports
for	C	onsumpt	ion,	and	app	parent	cons	sumption,	19	65-72

6 0			Apparent : Ratio of
Year :	Production 1/:		consump- : imports to
:	:	:	tion $\frac{3}{:}$ consumption
:	Million :	Million :	Million :
:	pairs :	pairs :	pairs : Percent
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	:	:	:
1965:	119 :	63:	182 : 35
1966:	117 :	63:	180 : 35
1967:	102 :	85 :	187 : 45
1968:	112 :	112 :	224 : 50
1969:	94 :	111 :	205 : 54
1970:	95 :	129 :	224 : 58
1971:	81 :	137 :	218 : 63
1972:	73 :	148 :	221 : 67
:	:	:	:

¹/ Casual shoes are believed to account for about 1/3 of the total annual output of nonrubber footwear for women and misses.

Source: Estimated by the U.S. Tariff Commission from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The table indicates that during the last 7-year period apparent consumption fluctuated from 180 million pairs in 1966 to 224 million pairs in 1968 and 1970. The import share of domestic consumption almost doubled over the period, expanding from 35 percent in 1965 to 67 percent in 1972.

^{2/} Casual shoes are believed to have accounted for about 3/4 of the total annual imports of nonrubber footwear for women and misses in recent years.

^{3/} Data represent estimated production plus estimated imports without an allowance for exports, which in 1972 amounted to less than 1 million pairs.

Protective footwear

Official data are not available on U.S. consumption of protective footwear of rubber or plastics. Moreover, the available data relating to domestic producers' shipments and to U.S. imports are not strictly comparable. Even if comparable data on domestic shipments and imports were available, apparent consumption computed from aggregates relating to such a wide range of products as firemen's boots, hip boots, and chest waders for hunting and fishing, various types of footwear for special industrial uses, rainwear, snow boots, and fashion boots have limited significance, particularly when there has been a marked change in the product mix during the period under review. How much of the domestic producers' shipments has consisted of waterproof footwear of types not included in the imports admitted under TSUS items 700.51 to 700.53 is not known.

Data that are available indicate that annual apparent consumption of protective footwear has declined from 51 million pairs to 40 million in 1968-72, as shown in the following tabulation:

Protective footwear: U.S. shipments, imports for consumption, and apparent consumption, 1968-72

Year	Ship- ments <u>1</u> /	:	Imports		Apparent consumption 2/	•	Ratio of imports to consumption
	Million	•	Million	•	Million	0 0 0	ечесть поволяния очення очення на мень на выполня выпольство в прости очення на поста очення на поста очення на п Стата по поворя на поста очення
•	pairs		pairs		pairs		Percent
1968	38	•	13	•	51	:	25
1969:	36	-	12	:	48		25
1970:	31		15	:	46	:	33
1971:	29	à 0	13	:	42	:	31
1972:	27	;	13	:	40	:	33
		:		:		:	

^{1/} Estimates, based on data reported by the Rubber Manufacturing Association and data reported to the U.S. Bureau of Census (SIC code No. 3079).

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

^{2/} Shipments plus imports. Exports are believed to be negligible.

During 1950-54, when most imported protective footwear was dutiable at 12.5 percent of the American selling price (the concession rate on footwear with an ASP value of \$12 or more per dozen pairs), estimated annual imports of protective footwear were rising; they amounted to nearly 500,000 pairs in 1954. From about 1958 to 1965, imports consisted largely of footwear of synthetic rubber or plastics that was subject to a rate of 12.5 percent of the "normal" (rather than ASP) valuation (see discussion in tariff section). Entries reached an estimated 3 million pairs in 1958, rose to 15 million pairs in 1961, and averaged about 13 million pairs during 1963-65. In 1966, the first year that most imports were subject to a rate of 37.5 percent ad valorem (rather than 12.5 percent), entries declined to 9 million pairs. During 1968-72, annual imports ranged from 12 million to 15 million pairs, as shown in the following tabulation (in millions of pairs):

Year	Quantity	Year	Quantity
1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965	15 15 13 12 13	1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972	

The volume of U.S. imports of all footwear and of protective footwear is shown, by tariff rates, in table 5 for the years 1964-72.

In recent years, about 85 percent of the annual imports of protective footwear have been admitted under TSUS item 700.53. 1/Such imports have consisted principally of boots vulcanized in pieces for hunting, fishing, and other such activities requiring heavy-duty footwear and have included substantial quantities of galoshes. Comparatively small amounts of women's more fashionable slush-molded boots have been imported from Canada, Italy, and Great Britain. Imports of all boots admitted under item 700.53 remained fairly steady from 1968 to 1972, ranging from 10 million to 11 million pairs. The Republic of Korea, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and Japan have been the principal suppliers of protective footwear. In 1972 Korea supplied about 53 percent (in terms of quantity) of the total imports of protective footwear; Taiwan, 28 percent; and Japan, 5 percent.

The share of estimated U.S. consumption of protective footwear supplied by imports was 25 percent in 1968 and 37 percent in 1972. Of this amount, a relatively small proportion was slush-molded such as that made at BGS Shoe Corp.

^{1/} TSUS item 700.53 includes protective footwear not supported or lined with polyvinyl chloride, the uppers of which extend above the ankle.

U.S. and Foreign Wage Rates

The table on the following page shows the published average hourly earnings and the estimated compensation per hour received by shoe workers in six countries in 1964, 1970, and 1971. It should be noted, however, that there are several difficulties involved in comparing these data. First, the definition for "shoe industry" varies among nations; in only two countries--Italy and the United States--are shoes specifically broken out from more encompassing industry classifications. This definitional problem makes it difficult to isolate the "shoe industry" in each country. Second, as footnote 1 to the table indicates, published hourly earnings in the various nations differ in composition. Third, total compensation for workers includes varying factors in the six countries.

Hourly earnings of production workers and estimated total compensation per hour worked by them in specified industries related to footwear in 6 countries, 1964, 1970, and 1971

Country : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	Industry	1964	1000				2/
razil: Clot		;	1970	1971	1964	1970	1971
apan: Leat pain: Shoe	thing and shoes: es 6/: ther products 7/: es, leather, and	3/ \$0.23 .42 .37 .23	.65	. 92	-		\$\frac{5}{1.67} 1.03 8\frac{.68}{.68}
aiwan: Leat	6	1.77	:	<u>5/</u> 2.53	:	9/ .21 2.96	<u>5/</u> 3.09

I/ Published earnings do not represent the same items of labor compensation in each country because of ifferences in the treatment of various supplementary benefits. Earnings generally refer to gross cash ayments to wage workers before deductions for taxes and social security, and include overtime pay, hift differentials, regular bonuses and premiums, and cost-of-living adjustments. Holiday, vacation, nd sick leave pay, bonuses not paid regularly each pay period, and other supplementary benefits are ncluded by some countries and excluded by others. The earnings data are per paid hour for some ountries and per hour worked for other countries.

2/ Compensation refers to all payments made by employers directly to their workers before deductions of any kind, plus employer contributions to legally required insurance programs and private elfare plans for the benefit of employees. The figures on additional compensation per hour orked as a percent of published earnings are the best estimates currently available to the U.S. ureau of Labor Statistics. The estimates are based primarily on labor cost or labor compensation urveys adjusted to the listed years on the basis of other available data.

3/ Average for 1966.

 $\frac{4}{4}$ Average for 1969; monthly earnings of 211.60 cruzeiros converted to an hourly basis by assuming 95 hours of work per month.

5/ Not available.

- $\frac{6}{6}$ / Approximately 15 percent of the workers in the Italian shoe industry are home workers, who are aid at a lower wage rate than the factory workers in the industry.
- 7/ The shoes shipped from Japan and Taiwan to the United States are principally of plastics. eparate data are not available on the plastics footwear industries of these two countries. pproximately half of the workers in the Japanese plastics shoe industry are home workers, who are aid at a lower rate than the factory workers in that industry. Apparently none of the workers in he Taiwan plastics shoe industry are home workers.
- 8/ The compensation factor included in this figure is employer social security payments, which ange from 49 to 50 percent of payroll.
- 9/ The published earnings data are computed per hour worked and include overtime pay, regular remiums, bonuses, family allowances, the market value of payments in kind, and wages paid to ersons absent from work. The compensation figure also includes annual bonuses.

Source: Based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, from the following: Brazil-earbook of Labor Statistics 1971, International Labour Office, Geneva; Italy--Social Statistics various issues), Statistical Office of the European Communities, Luxembourg and Brussels; Japan-ear Book of Labor Statistics (various issues), Ministry of Labor, Tokyo; Spain--Monthly Bulletin Statistics (various issues), National Institute of Statistics, Madrid; and Taiwan--Report of aiwan Labor Statistics 1971, Department of Construction, Provincial Government of Taiwan.

Note.--The exchange rates used to convert other currencies into U.S. dollars for 1971 are the average ates of exchange during 1971. Part of the increases in wages for Italy and Japan in 1971 are attribuable to the change in the rates in 1971.

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APPENDIX A STATISTICAL TABLES

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Table 1.--U.S. rates of duty applicable to women's and misses' footwear and protective footwear of the types provided for in specified TSUS items, July 1, 1934, and GATT concessions to Jan. 1, 1972

reue :	:		Rate of d	uty
TSUS item	Description	July l,	GATT	concession 2/
.No		1934 <u>1</u> /	Rate	Effective date
	: : :	Percent ad val. 3/	Percent ad val.; dollars per dozen pair 3/	
	Leather footwear: :	10.4/	- •	N 70 1050 Dec 71 1067
700.20 :	Turn or turned:: : : :	10 4/	5% : 4% : : 3% : : 2.5% : :	May 30, 1950-Dec. 31, 1967. Jan. 1, 1968-Dec. 31, 1969. Jan. 1, 1970-Dec. 31, 1971. Jan. 1, 1972.
:	"Other" (including cement :		:	
700 47	process): : Valued not over \$2.50 per :	;		
700.43 :	pair:			Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1968. Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1969.
•,:	•	;	: 17% :	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1970.
:	: :		: 16% : : 15% :	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1971. Jan. 1, 1972.
700.45 :	: Valued over \$2.50 per pair:	20	: : 18% :	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1968.
700.43 . : :	valued over \$2.30 per part :	:	: 16% : : 14% : : 12% :	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1969. Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1970. Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1971. Jan. 1, 1972.
700.51	which over 90 percent of the exterior surface area is polyvinyl chloride (PVC): whether or not supported or lined with PVC but not otherwise supported or lined.	25	12.5% 5 /	<u>5</u> /
	designed for use without closures:	:		:
	: Natural rubber	: 50 <u>6</u> / :	: \$1.50 per : doz. pr.7/	: Apr. 21, 1948-Sept. 9, 1955. :
	:	:		: Sept. 10, 1955-Dec. 6, 1965. : Dec. 7, 1965, to date.
	: Synthetic rubber or : plastics.	: 50 :	: 25% <u>5/</u>	5/
700.53	: Other: : Natural rubber	: · 75 6/	: : \$1.50 per	: : Apr. 21, 1948-Sept. 9, 1955.
	:	. , o <u>s</u> ,	: doz. pr. 7/	:
	: Synthetic rubber or	: : : 75		: Sept. 10, 1955-Dec. 6, 1965. : Dec. 7, 1965, to date. : 5/
	: plastics.	:	•	: :
700.55	: Footwear having uppers of : supported vinyl :	: Princi- : pally : 20 <u>9</u> / :	: 11% : 10% : 8.5%	: Aug. 31, 1963-Dec. 31, 1967. : Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1968. : Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1969 : Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1970. : Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1971. : Jan. 1, 1972.

^{1/} Except as noted, the rate on July 1, 1934, was the same as the original rate in the Tariff Act of 1930, effective June 18, 1930.
2/ For concessions granted in the Kennedy Round, effective Jan. 1, 1968, the table shows staged rates which

Footnotes to table 1--Continued

became effective up to and including Jan. 1, 1972.

3/ Assessed on the foreign (or export) value unless otherwise noted.

 $\overline{4}$ / Effective Jan. 1, 1932, the statutory rate of 20 percent ad valorem was reduced to 10 percent ad valorem,

pursuant to sec. 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

5/ Not imported until about 1959. A concession on protective footwear of synthetic rubber or plastics was granted by the United States in the GATT negotiations conducted in connection with the adoption of the TSUS (as amended by Public Law 89-241, effective Dec. 7, 1965). All imports of such footwear (regardless of material or style), however, were dutiable at 12.5 percent ad valorem through Dec. 6, 1965.

6/ Effective Mar. 3, 1933, the basis for assessing the duty was changed from foreign (export) value to the

American selling price (ASP) of the "like or similar domestic product" (T.D. 46158).

7/ But not less than 12.5 percent nor more than 25 percent based on ASP. This concession left unchanged the duty on rubber footwear valued at \$6 or less per doz. pr.; it reduced the duty on more expensive footwear by providing a specific rate of \$1.50 per doz. pr. of that valued more than \$6 and less than \$12 per doz. pr. and an ad valorem rate of 12.5 percent on that \$12 or more per doz. pr. During the effective period of the concession, most imports were dutiable at the minimum rate of 12.5 percent of the ASP.

8/ Based on ASP; see footnote 6.

 $\overline{9}/$ Supported vinyl was not used for shoe uppers until the late 1940's or early 1950's. When footwear with supported vinyl uppers was imported during the 1950's and early 1960's, it was generally dutiable, by virtue of the similitude provisions of par. 1559, at the rate provided for "similar" leather footwear in par. 1530(e). The column 2 rate for item 700.55 is 35 percent.

10/ The trade-agreement rate established in the TSUS, effective Aug. 31, 1963, under authority of the Tariff Classification Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-456) to replace the wide range of rates previously applicable to the various types of footwear provided for in this TSUS item.

Note.--A surcharge of 10 percent ad valorem or less was applicable to certain imported articles, including footwear, from Aug. 16, 1971 (Presidential Proclamation No. 4074), through Dec. 19, 1971 (Presidential Proclamation No. 4098).

Table 2.--Leather footwear for women and misses made by the turn or turned process (item 700.20): U.S. rates of duty and imports for consumption, 1939, 1946, and 1955-72

Year	Rate of duty	Quantity
	: Percent ad valorem	: 1,000 pairs
1939 1946	: -: <u>1/ 10</u> -: 10	:
1955	-: <u>2/</u> 5	: : 10 : 97
1957 1958 1959	-: 5 -: 5	209 234
1960	-: 5 -: 5	402664882
1963 1964	5 -: 5	: 1,067 : 916
1965	-: 5 -: 5	: 864 : 1,053 : 1,106
1968	5 : -: 4	1,361 : 1,905
1969		2,459 2,398
1972	2.5	1,604 1,589

^{1/} Effective Jan. 1, 1932, the statutory rate of 20 percent ad valorem was reduced to 10 percent pursuant to sec. 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^{2/} GATT concession, effective May 30, 1950.

Table 3.--Leather footwear for women and misses made principally by the cement process (items 700.43 and 700.45): U.S. rates of duty and imports for consumption, 1939, 1946, and 1955-72 1/

	Rate	οf	duty	Quanti	ty
Year	Item	:	Item	: Item :	LItem-
:	700.43	;	700.45	700.43 :	700.45
	Percent	:	Percent	: Million :	Million
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ad valorem	:	ad valorem	: pairs :	pairs
:				•	
1939:		20		2	
:				•	
1946:		20	•	: 1	
•				•	
1955:		20		: 1	
1956:		20		: 1	
1957:		20		: 2	
1958:		20	•	: 9	
1959:		20		; 5	
1960:		20	* .*	: 7	
1961:		20		: 9	
1962:		20		: 12	
1963:		20		: 17	
1964:		20		: 19	
1965:		20		: 21	
1966:		20		: 28	
:				•	
1967:		20		: 38	
1968:	19	:	18	: 34:	20
1969:	18	:	16	: 29 :	27
1970:	17	:	14	: 37 :	35
1971:	16	:	12	: 33 :	44
1972 2/:	15	:	10	: 25 :	61
•		:		: :	

^{1/} Statutory rate under par. 1530(e) for 1939 and 1946 through Aug. 30, 1963, and under TSUS item 700.40 for Aug. 31, 1963, through 1967. Effective Jan. 1, 1968, new items 700.41 (sandals of buffalo leather), 700.43, and 700.45 replaced item 700.40.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce and partly estimated.

^{2/} U.S. imports of sandals under item 700.41 amounted to 2 million pairs in 1972.

Table 4.--Footwear having supported-vinyl uppers for women and misses (item 700.55): U.S. rates of duty and imports for consumption, 1934 and 1964-72

Year	Rate of duty	Quantity	Value	: Unit : value
:	Percent	: 1,000	: 1,000	: Per
:	ad valorem	pairs	: dollars	: pair
1934	1/	: : 2/	: : 2/	: : 2/
1964:	37' 12.5			
1965:	12.5			
1966:	12.5	33,239	: 17,024	: .51
1967:	12.5	49,767	: 27,704	: .56
1968:	11	68,579	: 46,603	
1969:	10	70,777	•	
1970:	8.5	77,288		
1971:	7	86,942	•	
1972:	6	89,776	•	
	:	:	:	•

^{1/} During the period before the TSUS became effective, footwear with supported vinyl uppers (with soles other than india rubber) was generally dutiable by virtue of the similitude provisions of par. 1559 of the Tariff Act of 1930 at a rate provided for similar leather footwear in par. 1530(e), principally 20 percent ad valorem. The column 2 rate for item 700.55 is 35 percent.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce (data for 1964-65 are partly estimated).

Note.—-Data are not available on U.S. imports of footwear with supported vinyl uppers for the years prior to 1964. Such imports were probably negligible in the mid-1950's.

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Rate established in the TSUS, effective Aug. 31, 1963.

Table 5.--Nonrubber footwear for women: U.S. imports, by selected TSUSA items, 1968-72

TSUSA item	Description	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	: :		Quantity	y (1,000	pairs)	
	: : Footwear of leather: :			:		•
	: Valued not over \$2.50 per : pair:		:	:		
	: Casual footwear: :		:	:	: :	:
700.4310	: For women:	19,024	12,015	11,905	6 , 298	4,18
	: Cement footwear: :				:	
700.4340	: For women:: : Valued over \$2.50 per pair:: : Casual footwear:	11,891	13,532	21,159	20,008	17,68
700.4510	: For women:	1,428	1,922	2,489	3,554	6,34
100.4710	: Cement footwear: :	1,420	, <i>922</i>	:	: 3,,,,,	
700.4540	: For women:	16,884	22,734	28,471	37,563	51,25
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	: Supported vinyl uppers: :	10,00	:		: ;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;	;
700.5545	: For women and misses:	68,579	70.777	77,288	: 86,942 :	89,776
	::	117.806	120.980	: 141,312	: 156,365	169,248
	:	,	Valu	le (1,000 d	lollars)	
	:	******************	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•	:	
	: Footwear of leather: :		:	•	:	
	: Valued not over \$2.50 per :		:	:	:	
	: pair: :		:	:	:	:
	: Casual footwear: :		:	•	: :	
700.4310	: For women:	27,5 39	17,749	: 18,238	: 13,256 :	7,081
	: Cement rootwear: :			:	:	i
700.4340	: For women:		22,144	35,614	: 34,437	30,153
	: Valued over \$2.50 per pair::		:	:	: :	•
500 1510	: Casual footwear: :	5 003	. 7 800	. 10 007	. 10 511	
700.4510	: For women:	5,293	. 1,099	: 10,007	: 13,711 :	24,70
700 150	: Cement footwear: : For women	76 236	: • 112 866	116 161	: 193,846 :	060 1.00
700.4540		10,230	: 112,000	: 140,101	: 193,046 :	262,40
700 EELE	: Supported vinyl uppers: : For women and misses:	16 603	55,820	. 73 757	104,196	300.00
700.5545		171, 036	216,478	. 283 778	350 116	109,90° 434,248
4	. 10ta1	114,930				434,240
			Unit va	alue (per	r pair)	
	:		: . :	:	:	:
•	: Footwear of leather: :		:	:	:	
	: Valued not over \$2.50 per :		•	:	: :	1 .
	: pair: :		:	:	:	:
-	: Casual footwear: :		:	:	:	:
700.4310	For women:	\$1.44	: \$1.48	: \$1.53	: \$1.60 :	\$1.69
700 1.21.0	: Cement footwear: :	2.60			: :	•
700.4340	: For women: : Valued over \$2.50 per pair::		1.64	1.68	1,72	1.70
	: Casual footwear:		• ·	•		
700.4510	: For women:	270	. 1	1.00		
100.4710	: Cement footwear:	3 .7 0	4.11	4.02	3.86	3.89
700.4540	For women	4.51	4.96	: 512	. 516	
1901-740	: Supported vinyl uppers:	→・ シエ	• 4.30	5.13	5.16 :	5.12
700.5545	: For women and misses:	67	79	95	1.20	1 00
, -,,/,3/	: Average:					
	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	+ T U	- ~・1フ 。゚	- 2.01	- 4,50 .	<.71

Table 6.--Footwear: Total U.S. imports and U.S. tariff rates and imports by specified TSUS items and by specified types, 1964-72

:		Protective footwear ofrubber or plastics		
:				
Year :	Total, all	: (items 700.	51, 700.52	
:	footwear	: 700.53)		
:	Tootwear			
<u> </u>	:	Tariff rate	Quantity	
:	Million	Percent	Million	
:	pairs	ad val. 1/	pairs	
:		= <u></u>	paris	
1964:	153	12.5	2/ 12	
1965:	176	12.5	$\frac{2}{2}$ 13	
1966:		(12.5	$\frac{2}{1}$	
	1,0	(25.0 -		
•		(37.5)	3/	
•		(3/.3	8	
1967:	216	(12.5	•	
	210 .		1	
•	•	(25.0 :	1	
•	•	(37.5 :	9	
1968:	277	(10.5	_	
1500:	273 :	(12.5):	1	
•	:	(25.0 :	1	
:	:	(37.5 :	11	
1969	:	:		
1909:	284 :	(12.5):	<u>3</u> /	
:	:	(25.0:	- 1	
:	:	(37.5 :	11	
1070	:	:		
1970:	333 :	(12.5 :	1	
:	:	(25.0 :	1	
:	:	(37.5 :	13	
:	:	:		
1971:	367 :	(12.5 :	3/	
:		(25.0 :	1	
:	:	(37.5 :	11	
:	:		**	
1972:	394 :	(12.5 :	1	
<u>.</u>	•	(25.0 :	î	
•	•	(37.5 :	12	
:	•	(37.3	12	
1/ ^		<u> </u>		

¹/ Assessed on the foreign (or export) value unless otherwise noted.

3/ Less than 500,000 pairs.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

^{2/} Includes less than 0.5 million pairs of footwear of natural rubber dutiable on the American-selling-price (ASP) basis.

APPENDIX B NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RELATING TO BGS SHOE CORP.

By JAY HANLON largest-has filed a petition federal bankruptcy laws.

The action was formally announced yesterday in a press release mailed out by the company last Friday.

Arnold J. Cohen, president of the 40-year-old shoe company, blamed foreign competition on the company's current financial troubles.

However, he said BGS will continue to operate its various divisions without interruption pending the financial reorganization.

BGS operates four divisions, three of them in Manchester, and employs a total of about 950 persons, according to Herbert L. Schachat, lirector of personnel.

The Manchester divisions nclude BeeBee, Prevue Prodicts and Trend-Tec, while the ourth division is located in Pittsfield.

BGS manufactures fashion hoes and boots in the popular rice ranges and sells its roducts to a wide number of ationally known department tore chains.

Cohen, in his press release, ald "this action was forced on ne company by business losses esulting from continued ruinous reign competition.

bank has indicated its willing-1,500 persons in the four Rumors of financial trouble The BGS Shoe Corp.—one ness to continue advancing divisions last summer. How-circulated through the Mar of Manchester's oldest and monies, and others, including ever, periodic layoffs in the fall chester area last week an monies, and others, including ever, periodic layoffs in the fall chester area last week an in U. S. District Court for an employes, have indicated their and winter brought this number repeated calls by the Unio arrangement with its credi-confidence in the company's fudown to the present 950 employ- Leader to the company brought ture.

official press release was issued

BGS employed a high of about about \$100,000.

Imports," he continued, "have kept the company's conventional shoe business marginal at best for several years and in combination with the sudden decline in the fashion boot business has resulted in the present situation."

Creditors whom the company could not pay in the ordinary course threatened to interrupt the company's business and caused the filing of the petition entered in U.S. District Court in Concord last Friday.

Manchester Atty. Joseph J. Betley was appointed federal referee. He has authorized the company to continue its business and has restrained all creditors from further legal action until final disposition by the referee or the court.

Accordingly, Cohen said, "the company will continue its business, fill its orders and keep its commitments to customers."

Cohen also said the company's

TWENTY CENTS

NEW YORK, N.Y., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1973

One Year \$10 Payable in Advance

WOMEN'S

BGS files Chapter XI petition

Continued from Page One

Fashion Boots are continuing in operation with about 1,000

at the referee's office, BGS has in assets and According to approximate asset-liabilities figures received \$5,730,000 in liabilities.

ing financial problems, left many area shoemen thunder-New England's largest, was hav-News that the \$22 million struck. BGS is considered to be manufacturing complex, one of in the forefront of technological

skills, particularly in its Prevue Products slush-molded division.

In a prepared statement conpresident, left little doubt that conventional shoemaking, particularly in the fashion boot area, was at the root of the problem.

Cohen said the filing "was forced on the company from business losses resulting from foreign competition. imports have kept the company's conventional shoe business years. This, in combination with ruinous

the recent sudden decline in the ashion boot business, has resulted in the present situation."

Analyzing prospects for the uture, Cohen said the firm's bank has indicated it will continue advancing money and "others have indicated their confidence in the company's future by their offers of financial support."

bank, Chemical Bank of New York, is advancing payroll funds Betley told FN that the BGS

BGS officials are expected to meet with creditors next week.

petition -- A-101 ChapterXI BGS files

BGS Shoe Corp. has filed; fo reorganization under Chapter XI in Federal District Court MANCHESTER, N.II.

Ian. 12. Referee Joseph J. Betley, has ruled that BGS officluded with the filing, made possession and a filing on debt schedules and reorganization is cials will remain as debtors-in-No plan for reorganization or details of assets were inexpected shortly.

BGS and its divisions, Bee Bee Shoe Co., Prevue Products, Trend Tee and Parigi

Fairchild Business Newspaper



Onc Year \$10 Payable in Advance

FWENTY CENTS

NEW YORK, N.Y., THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1973

meeting of creditors By JACK SHEA

creditors committee representng an approximate \$2.8 milhis week following a meeting MANCHESTER, N.H. — A ion trade debt was formed called by BGS Shoe Corp.

BGS last week entered a Chapter XI plea in Federal District Court, as noted.

Arnold Cohen, BGS president, said a committee of 15 nembers and four ex officio shapiro, Boston attorney, as counsel and Henry P. Clayman, president, Philip Clavmembers elected Frank J

BGS calls creditor parley

Continued from Page One

chairman. About 60 creditors man & Sons, Salem, Mass, as attended, Cohen said.

Cohen told FN, adding that No decision was reached by the creditors who "have given us a long list of questions, ereditors indicated wanted to work with us.

or submission to Federal Refer-

ganization plan is being drawn

ee Joseph J. Betley, "probably division which forced us to a decision to shrink Bec Bee which caused the company to seck Chapter XI relief which included "a very bad year at the Bee Bee Shoe Co. division and a mediocre year in the slushmolding Prevue products operations substantially, caus-He said BGS counsel outlined the background situation

ing a loss in operations.

tion "emphasized our desire to Cohen said the BGS presentawork with creditors because the Prevue division, at least, is good business which should continue." inue in operation while a reor-Cohen said all divisions con-

events in rapid-fire order, inon boots, a so-so slush season and a cutback by bankers which orced the decision "between Asked about the unexpected-Cohen listed a succession of sluding the demise of vinyl fashness of the Chapter XI gambit, within a couple of weeks."

Vol. 29, No. 4

Zvi Cohen keeps BGS in business

MANCHESTER, N.H. — BGS Shoe Corp. has been discharged from bankruptcy court and will continue to operate with vi Cohen, former vice-president of sales, as president and chief operating officer.

Cohen told FN that New Hampshire bankruptcy referee Joseph Betley, made the discharge on April 27 after Cohen deposited \$450,000 with the court as a 10 per cent payment to creditors and other expenses. The creditors had already accepted the plan.

As noted, BFS will pay another 5 per cent in 13 months, 5 per cent 12 months later, and 5 per cent every six months thereafter up to 50 per cent of total unsecured debts.

Creditors with claims of \$500 or under accepted a 30 per cent payment and are being paid.

Zvi Cohen, who replaces his brother Arnold as president, has become the only stockholder at BGS after reaching agreement with other members of the family-run corporation.

Arnold Cohen, reached at BGS, said his plans were not firm at the moment, but said the parting was amicable.

Asked about trade reports that BGS was on the selling block, Zvi Cohen confirmed some talks had been held prior to internal re-financing, but added. "The company is not for sale." He said the money for creditor settlement was raised partly "from our normal banking relationship and partly from outside sources." BGS is continuing with the Chemical Bank in New York.

cohen said BGS will operate with two divisions: Prevue products, which makes slush-molded footwear and distributes it to volume accounts. and Parigi fashion boots, which sells slush-molded brands to independents and department stores. Cohen estimated annual sales at more than \$10 million.

As noted, BGS has discontinued both its conventional shoemaking (Bee Bee) and shoe components (Trend Tec) divisions.

Cohen said he is investigating the possibility of adjustment assistance aid "but right now we want to make a profit on what we have."

BGS to drop regular shoe output

MANCHESTER, N.H. - BGS Shoe Corp. is getting out of the conventional shoe business, at least temporarily, to concentrate on slush-molded production.

Arnold Cohen, president, told FN this week. "We have made a definite decision not to continue (conventional) shoe business at

present."

Instead, BGS will phase out manufacturing at its Bee Bee division, close its Pittsfield, N.H., slush-molded plant and move that production to the Bee Bee division. "We've decided to go with the surest and most profitable - slush-molded - and tion." he said.

The move will begin in about three weeks after shoes in process are completed at Bee Bee. With increased slush-molding at Prevue and now at Bee Bee, Cohen estimated annual sales at the \$13 million level.

BGS filed a Chapter XI petition on Jan. 12, sending shock waves through the industry as knowledge spread that the \$22 million a year producer, with 1.500 employes, had encountered financial problems.

Asked about the Trendtec division which makes unit bottoms and heels, Cohen said BGS is

take the risk from the opera- "playing with the idea of selling components to the trade." BGS recently began flow-molding operations and the company is also considering offering upper flow-molding on a contract basis, somewhat similar to contract stitching operations.

Trendtec will be merged with the Prevue division, he said.

Cohen siad a net loss in employment would result from the plant consolidation because Pittsfield is smaller than Bee Bee, but expects peak employment will hit 800 this year.

Cohen said leased machines for conventional making would See BGS, Page 22

BGS will focus on slush-moldeds

Continued from Page 21 be discontinued and owned ma- the meeting. chines sold off. Styrene heelmaking will also probably be in trade debt. discontinued since production was tled to Bee Bee needs and is thought to be too small for commercial sales, he said.

On the financial side, BGS has not submitted its reorganizationplan under the Chapter XI petition yet, Cohen said. In other actions, BGS has scheduled another meeting with creditors for Friday where a payment planwill be discussed.

He said he was hopeful a repayment plan could be worked

out "in a week or 10 days" after

BGS owes about \$2.8 million

-JACK SHEA

APPENDIX C LETTER TO THE U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION FROM MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.

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APPENDIX D NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BGS SHOE CORP.

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APPENDIX E

INFORMATION ON TYPES OF WOMEN'S SHOES AND OF "BOTTOMS" USED ON SUCH FOOTWEAR BY BGS SHOE CORP. (Submitted by BGS to Clarify Questions Raised at the Public Hearing)

APPENDIX F

LETTERS FROM CUSTOMERS SUBMITTED BY BGS SHOE CORP.

