

ported in edition lots.

I may state that it is probably a unique thing for a representative of an American Association with such a large amount of capital invested, as is the case with the American publishers, to appear before this Committee and State, as the representative of the publishers in this country, that we request Congress to make the duty on books as low as possible; and we request that this duty should not, under any circumstances, exceed 25% AD VALOREM on books printed in English, and that in our judgment it would be wise and fitting that Congress should assess the dutiable value of imported books from England at 15% AD VALOREM. It may be noted here in passing, that the duty on books imported unto the United States has never exceeded 25%.

Further, as the representative of the National Association of Book Publishers, I urge upon you that all books in foreign languages should be kept on the free list. It was a Republican Congress that placed books in foreign languages on the free list; and there they have remained through all the successive Tariff Acts, both Republican and Democratic. I would urge upon you the fact that those books in foreign languages are almost invariably of a highly educational value; or if not of an educational value, they are used by foreigners in this country who are unable to read English. It is a well known fact, substantiated from every corner of this country, that the children of foreigners invariably throw over the foreign language books and become enthusiastic readers of books printed in English. It may startle you to realize that 60% of the English speaking people are in the United States, and 70% of the English speaking people in North America. This fact guarantees a continuing increase in the manufacture of books in America.

I also urge upon you in the name of the publishers of our country, to put books over twenty years of age on the free list. Books over twenty years old were placed on the free list by a Republican Congress, and these books over twenty years old have been kept on the free list, through all the successive Tariff Acts until this present time.

There can be no need or excuse whatsoever for protecting books in foreign languages or books over twenty years old. These books do not compete with American manufacture; they are in the truest sense instruments of education, and they should be on the free list. Books in raised letters for the blind should also remain on the free list; and it is my personal opinion that books for educational purposes should remain on the free list. As this is an enlightened state of affairs, such as a great Government like ours should keep in force.

The booksellers and the publishers urge with all the enthusiasm and spirit of their profession, that your Committee give the most careful consideration to the dutiable value of books: that there shall be free books in foreign languages, free books over twenty years old, free books in raised letters for the blind, free books for educational institutions; and that the duty on books imported from England should not be more than 15%, and that the