

barriers.

In the case of industrial materials and manufactures, the general safeguard clause (Article 226) was used mainly to give temporary relief to a number of Italian producers, particularly in the southern part of the country. The items affected included silk and derived products, certain forms of lead and zinc, sulphur and its products, iodine, and two chemical products manufactured from local raw materials. The Italians brought these problems to the Commission early in the transitional period. They had been encouraged to do so during the negotiations between the Six on the level of the Common External Tariff on some of the items or on the raw materials from which they were manufactured. Their concerns related perhaps even more to competition from outside the EEC than from their Community partners. The safeguard action permitted was, in some cases, "isolation" of the Italian market through a ban or quota control on imports and, in others, delayed removal of tariffs against imports from other member states. In most cases the Italians were required to submit a program for putting the industry concerned on a sounder footing. Extensions were granted for some of the Italian safeguard measures but practically all were eliminated before the end of the transitional period.

In the early years of the Community, several other member states were allowed to take safeguard action on industrial products. The Benelux countries were permitted to maintain a quota on penicillin and its preparations, to conserve domestic production. A French request for authorization of a quota on semi-conductors was granted. Germany was given permission to set up an equalization fund to support its lead and zinc producers. The duration of these measures ranged from several months to a year.

In 1962 the Commission developed some strict criteria for considering any further applications under the general safeguards clause to ensure it was not used to circumvent the inevitable difficulties resulting from the speed-up in the dismantling of internal barriers which had been agreed upon. From this time on, it seems that the Commission was more inclined to reject requests for permission to extend existing measures or introduce new ones.

In the middle and latter part of the transitional period France sought authority on several occasions to take safeguard action. In 1962 it wanted to impose a temporary 12 per cent duty on refrigerators to counter an upsurge of imports from Italy which was causing serious difficulties for the French industry. The Commission agreed, subject to a gradual reduction of the duty to 6 p.c. and a tight deadline for its removal.

Four years later, with its white goods industry in the throes of a painful