

September 3, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has decided to increase by six percent the tariff rate quota on stainless steel knives, forks, and spoons valued at under 25 cents each. The increase, to 51.5 million pieces per calendar quarter, will go into effect October 1, 1974. The new quota will continue to be allocated among supplying countries on a quarterly basis.

No change will be made in the rates of duty. Imports within the tariff quota pay duties ranging from 17 percent to 23 percent of the value of the flatware. Imports entering after the quota is filled, pay substantially higher duties, amounting to 40 percent for spoons, about 60 percent for knives, and over 70 percent for forks.

The President's decision follows a report of the Tariff Commission that consumption of stainless steel flatware in the United States in 1973 was twelve percent higher than the previous year. Under the terms of Proclamation 4076, which established the present tariff rate quota in 1971, an increase up to six percent may be put into effect when domestic consumption rises. The prospective increase, amounting to under 3 million pieces per quarter, is equivalent to about 1.9 percent of consumption.

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