

Combine in Appeal to Ottawa

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wages are the single, most important force behind the flood of footwear imports".

It calls for easing of duty on components used by Canadian shoe manufacturers; import controls and a correction of federal sales tax applications.

Import taxes, said the brief, are based on market value in countries of origin — giving low-wage areas a definite advantage over Canadian producers.

Among statistics cited are those for the period between 1956 and 1969.

In this period Canada's population increased by 5,300,000 (33 per cent) while Canadian footwear production decreased by 810,000 pairs (one per cent). Footwear imports increased by 39,200,000 pairs (568 per cent).

Further, the decline in Canadian leather footwear was

most evident late in 1969 and January of this year. The association claims the situation will worsen.

In terms of "Market share", Canadian footwear production fell from 58.7 per cent in 1968 to 55 per cent in 1969. It is expected to drop to 50 per cent this year and under 50 per cent in 1971.

Noting that "jobs shouldn't be sacrificed to unfair wage competition", the submission claims that Canadian productivity in the footwear industry is 35 per cent higher than in countries belonging to the European Common Market.

"In 1968, each Canadian footwear employee produced an average of 3,000 pairs of footwear similar to that imported," the submission asserts.

"Thus, the 46.1 million pairs imported in 1969 were equivalent to the loss and exportation of a minimum of 15,000 job opportunities," the submission emphasizes.