

Lundine Assures AL-Tech On Steel

DUNKIRK — Rep. Stanley Lundine went right to the steel works Friday to give AL-Tech Specialties Steel Corp. management and labor representatives his personal assurance that the exclusion of specialty steels from legislation restricting steel imports will not go unchallenged.

Lundine told representatives from Dunkirk's largest employer that he is calling on President Carter to amend a "trigger price mechanism" — a revived price restriction program to assist domestic steel — to include specialty steels. Lundine says he is "disappointed and deeply concerned" that the TPM legislation, which now covers the carbon steel industry, "forgot about, or ignored, or left out the specialty steel industry."

Lundine said there exists compelling evidence that "dumping" of low-cost foreign-made surplus steel into the American market has been rampant since Carter phased out import quotas on steel products this February. "The president's decision to phase out import quotas on specialty steel has left the industry vulnerable to unauthorized dumping by foreign countries. This is wholly unacceptable," the

OCT 16 1980
congressman said. James Minturn, AL-Tech vice president of administration and secretary, backed up the congressman's assertions about foreign dumping with figures showing a drastic reduction in domestic specialty steel sales since the quota was lifted in February. James Bickhart, president of Local 2693 of the United Steelworkers of America, said that 132 of the 940 union steelworkers at AL-Tech have been laid off since that time.

Bickhart told Lundine that New York state, which housed a large segment of the nationwide specialty steel industry, is "very important" to Democrats in this an election year. "The government is basically unwilling to enforce non-dumping laws," Bickhart said. "We proved that France dumped rod in 1971, and yet we never collected any money from France."

"Frankly, I don't think it's a partisan matter," responded Lundine. "The policy of the United States has always been a weak trading policy, under both Republicans and Democrats. This nation has always been more concerned with making friends around the world," he said.

Lundine explained that unscrupulous foreign concerns can dump surplus steel, at ridiculously low prices, onto the domestic market, because many foreign countries "artificially support" — their industries — subsidizing losses incurred through over-

production.

"We have not done a very efficient job of preventing foreign companies from dumping," Lundine said. "My record in congress is hardly one of blind protectionism, however, companies like AL-Tech must be given the opportunity to operate in a fair international trading climate to avoid the type of past injury which led to the imposition of the 1976 import quotas."

"The trigger price mechanism was first established in 1978 as a way to assist the domestic steel industry in dealing with the dumping of foreign steel. Under the price mechanism, prices of steel imports are compared to pre-established prices for such products based on fair market value," Lundine explained.

Lundine presented copies of the letters of protest he has fired off to the president and to Secretary of Commerce Phillip Klutznick.

Lundine writes the president: "Although I welcomed the opportunity to attend your White House briefing on your program for the steel industry, I am disappointed and deeply concerned regarding your decision not to provide coverage under the reinstated trigger price mechanism for specialty steel... Import penetration of specialty steel products from foreign countries whose governments provide subsidies and other support to their industries has resulted in severe injury to U.S. industries."