

## The Petitioners and Prison Labor

### Verbatim Excerpt from the Official Preliminary Hearing Transcript, Pages 63-64 U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) November 12, 2010 – Washington, DC

THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
) Investigation Nos.:  
MULTILAYERED WOOD FLOORING ) 701-TA-476 and  
FROM CHINA ) 731-TA-1179 (Preliminary)

Friday,  
November 12, 2010

Room No. 101  
U.S. International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C.

APPEARANCES: [IN THIS EXCERPT ONLY]

On behalf of the International Trade Commission:

Staff:

JAMES FETZER, Economist

On behalf of the Coalition for American Hardwood Parity:

DONALD R. FINKELL, JR., Chief Executive Officer, Shaw Hardwood  
KIM HOLM, President, Residential Business,  
Mannington Mills Inc.

MR. FETZER: Okay. No, I appreciate that. Thanks. What else. Mr. Finkell, I believe you testified regarding hand scraping that you use paid inmate labor for hand scraping of your product? Did I get that right?

MR. FINKELL: Yes, that's true.

MR. FETZER: Is that typical in the U.S. industry? That it's manual labor versus a machine? Because I, you know, on the record

I think there's some evidence that it might be automated to a certain extent.

MR. FINKELL: Well, it started off, you know, we brought that product to market several years ago and we did it all by hand, and we still do our higher end products by hand. In fact, at this point, all of our products that are on the market today are done by hand. In the last, you know, little bit there have been some machines that have come out that do some of that, you know, mechanically. It doesn't look exactly the same, it's a different look, but it still gives not a smooth surface.

MR. FETZER: Okay.

MR. HOLM: Yes. We also utilize, although we don't have the direct relationship with the prison, but we use prison labor for hand scraping our domestically produced products. We're also in process of producing automated machine scraped products as well that we've recently introduced to the market.

MR. FETZER: Okay. And is there any idea, Mr. Levin, of the other companies in the industry? Is it similar?

MR. LEVIN: I am not aware offhand. I'd be happy to check.