In a special report on steel in Business Week of June 1966, it was pointed out that since 1947 the United States had shifted from a net exporter, with an annual export surplus in steel mill products of 6 million tons, to a net importer.

While the United States had net steel exports of about 4 million tons in 1957, by 1965 this had been replaced by net steel imports of 8 million tons. On balance, the total loss to foreign steel amounted to 12 million tons.

The textile industry in the Nation, and in the State of Alabama, has also suffered from the impact of a flood of imported textile products.

It is reported that textile imports in 1966 reached a level of 2.8 billion equivalent square yards. This level of imports amount to some 10 percent of the total U.S. textile market and is displacing the equivalent of 198,681 potential American textile jobs with an estimated annual payroll of $949,099,137.

In Jefferson County, Ala., which includes Birmingham, there are some 1,500 people employed by the textile and apparel industries. These two industries account for about 80,000 employees in Alabama with an annual payroll amounting to $353 million.

Textile mill products are produced in 42 of the State's 67 counties, and Alabama textile mills consumed over a million bales of cotton in 1966, more than twice the 461,000 bales produced by Alabama farmers. The textile payroll is 15 percent of all manufacturing payroll. Alabama accounts for approximately 3.5 percent of the national employment in these two industries.

In testimony before the Special Labor Subcommittee of the House, textile industry spokesmen said that 2.8 billion square yards of textile imports in 1966 displaced the equivalent of 200,000 jobs in the American textile and apparel industries.

Textile imports in January of 1968 reached a record high for any single month in history, according to figures released by the Office of Textiles of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Imports of cotton, wool, and man-made fiber textile products in January were 291.2 million square yards. The previous high was 280.3 million square yards in September of 1966.

In the past 5 years, it has been reported that U.S. textile imports increased 200 percent while U.S. textile production grew by less than 35 percent.

As is also the case in America's steel industry, the textile industry is faced with competition from foreign countries where wage rates are so low that American manufacturers cannot hope to compete with most imported goods on the American market.

As an example, the American textile worker earns an average of about $2.14 an hour, which will increase to $2.27 in September of this year, as compared to an average of 25 cents an hour in Hong Kong, 36 cents in Japan, 18 cents in Portugal, 14 cents in India, and 8 cents in Korea.

In a 1-month period, almost 63 percent of the cotton textiles imported into the United States came from Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, India, and Brazil; with much of the remainder from Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Taiwan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, West Germany, and Korea.