

in attitudes that in order to export we must give the low wage countries an almost open field. To go along with this theory is to say that we ought to repeal our antitrust laws so the big discounters and chains can run hog-wild over the market place, dumping loss leaders on the public until all the small manufacturers, suppliers, independent retailers and smaller farmers are liquidated.

By not enforcing our antitrust laws earlier, we have already accomplished this liquidation of free enterprise in many lines of business, closing the doors to our youth in one line and then another.

Exporters who think only of what will happen to them if a foreign country retaliates by cutting down on its purchases, had better consider what is going to happen if we cannot answer our Appalachian problems, our civil rights problems, the problem of training and finding jobs for the millions of people who will be displaced with the coming of peace. These exporters and importers need to realize, too, that they have done a miserable job of selling any American idea of what constitutes a live and let live policy of doing business. They must realize that an overwhelming majority of businessmen, both big and small, have stood back and watched the destruction of the family farm and the independent storekeepers through merger, cutthroat competition, trading stamps, games, discriminatory tax burdens, bureaucratic red tape and trends to socialistic government—without writing a letter to their Congressmen, without taking time to talk to the youth of their communities; without showing a sign of effort in behalf of the fundamental principles set forth by the Founding Fathers who gave them their freedoms and their opportunities.

Free enterprise in this country does not mean the freedom of anyone to exploit workers or the buying public. It does not mean that we should even tolerate the idea of building the dynasties of Europe and Asia by patronizing their sweat shops, and what is wrong, I ask, with our buying the things from Latin America, Europe, Asia and Canada, that they can make well or that we do not make at fair prices, and why cannot we spread this idea into foreign lands? Are we not just as bad as the maker of a sweat shop product when we buy it, actually glorying in the fact that we got it so cheap, when maybe it was produced by people living under starvation conditions who could never purchase anything we produce?

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have great decisions to make. Congress has great decisions to make on this whole matter of domestic and foreign trade. Within the next few years, Russian businessmen and their highly trained, many language emissaries will be streaming over the world to move the goods of their growing industries, and Japan, China, India, Latin America, all will have markets for their goods and services, and if we allow our industries to be weakened, and some to disappear entirely as they are now doing, we could end up not only as a have-not nation, but lower on the economic ladder than the British Empire is today.

I urge you to think about this idea of fair play in the market place; to weigh the benefits of international fair trade, and to keep ever in mind that the destiny of goods determines the destiny of nations as much as the structure of their government and the philosophy that lives in their hearts.

What Congress does to build a fair trade "freedom of opportunity" system in America, may determine America's course for generations to come.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES,
Washington, D.C., July 12, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MILLS: The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, a nationwide association of farmer-owned, private enterprise businesses engaged in purchasing and marketing of farm supplies and farm products, is vitally concerned with recent developments in international trade matters—including adverse trends in the U.S. trade balance, widespread drift toward new non-tariff barriers which further restrict U.S. export opportunities or threaten unfair import competition, and other policies or actions by nations of the world which conflict with principles of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade or heighten risks of a damaging, perhaps uncontrollable trade war.