

Mr. Chairman, we cannot afford to wait any longer. The future of one of our basic and most essential industries is in jeopardy. I urge this committee to report out the textile import legislation pending before you as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Taylor, for sharing your views with us. Are there any questions?

Our next witness is the Honorable Spark M. Matsunaga, of Hawaii. You are recognized, sir.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity of appearing before you and expressing my views with respect to one of the most troublesome items in recent times in the field of tariff and trade textile imports. I applaud the members of this committee who effected the deletion in conference of the Senate amendment to the Tax Adjustment Act of 1968 which would have established mandatory import quotas on textiles. I commend the distinguished chairman of this committee, Mr. Mills, for his position statement of May 9, 1968, relative to the textile amendment as printed in the document entitled "Summary of the Decisions of the Conferees on H.R. 15414," and for holding these hearings to "provide us an informed basis for any subsequent legislation in this vitally important field."

Aside from the consideration that an import quota, applied and limited to one industry, textiles, would be demonstrably insupportable at a time when the United States is making serious efforts to expand world trade to reduce our balance-of-payments deficit, it is clear that such a quota would be the forerunner of similar quotas in other areas. Retaliatory trade restrictions by other nations would inevitably follow, and adverse effects upon our own national economy would be the predictable final result. This Nation, as the world's largest exporter, can ill afford to follow such a course.

My interest in the question of the advisability of adopting a textile import quota arises also from the fact that the garment manufacturing industry in Hawaii, although of comparatively recent origin, is a vitally important one in the 50th State. Because of the limitations which Hawaii's insular position and volcanic beginnings have imposed on our ability to produce needed raw materials, Hawaii's garment manufacturers have come to rely heavily on overseas sources of supply of textiles—principally Japan. It is apparent that any restrictions on these textile imports would sound the death knell of this young and growing island industry. We would, of course, like to prevent such an occurrence because the garment industry offers the greatest promise of continuing to add to Hawaii's economic diversification and growth.

Mr. Chairman, Hawaii's Governor, the Honorable John A. Burns, has stated the case for the State's garment industry in an excellent written statement addressed to this committee. I submit it in his behalf, and respectfully request that it be printed in the hearing record immediately following my statement.

Thank you very much.

(The statement referred to follows:)