

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN A. BURNS, GOVERNOR, STATE OF HAWAII

Mr. Chairman, I am in full support of the Administration's recommendation for extending the Trade Expansion Act and its various amendments thereto.

Conversely, it would seem to me very unwise for the United States to adopt new import quotas and other restrictions on trade.

In view of mankind's several thousand years commercial experience, it hardly seems necessary to argue for liberal trade policies among nations. Liberal trade not only increases the economic well-being of all concerned, it increases human freedom and leads to a more secure world.

Conversely, restrictions on trade lead to narrow nationalism, misunderstanding, and military solutions.

America must continue to lead the way toward a freer and more secure world. To accomplish this, we must do all we can to free ourselves and our world neighbors from existing restrictions.

Of more direct concern to Hawaii is the Senate proposal to impose restrictions on textile imports.

As you may know, Hawaii has very few of the material resources on which industrial economies are based. One of our industries, garment making, is now becoming fully established after a long uphill struggle; and it promises to continue to add to Hawaii's economic diversification and employment. We are most anxious that trade restrictions will not challenge the existence of this industry or inhibit its expansion.

Garment manufacturing is a highly competitive industry, and Hawaii's garment manufacturers are already handicapped by distant markets, discriminatory ocean freight rates, high capital costs, and high power costs.

Most of the cloth used in Hawaii's industry is imported—principally from Japan. For the most part, the cloth is printed in the distinctive designs of Hawaii designers, either abroad or in Hawaii. In terms of the national market, the volume of imported cloth used in Hawaii is infinitesimal; but in terms of our local economy, our ability to import this cloth is important indeed.

We would not wish to penalize the industry with arbitrary import restriction on textile imports. Should such restrictions be imposed, we would like to see an exemption for the State of Hawaii, or some other allowance made to protect the continued growth of this industry.

Furthermore, Hawaii is attempting to expand exports to nations in the Pacific and Asia. We are also endeavoring to establish Hawaii as an international center for commerce and trade. These efforts, which show increasing signs of success, will be severely jeopardized should the U.S. impose restrictions on imports in general, and on textile in particular.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Matsunaga, for your statement and for bringing to us Governor Burns' statement. We will certainly consider them in our deliberations.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind words.

The CHAIRMAN. The Honorable William L. St. Onge, of Connecticut, is our next witness. Welcome sir, you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM L. ST. ONGE, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. ST. ONGE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate this opportunity to present my views on H.R. 11626, known as the Textile Trade Act.

For the first time in 6 years, we have before us proposed legislation for the institution of a comprehensive program of import regulation. Although this Nation has been moving toward the goal of free trade—and this trend was certainly obvious in the Kennedy round negotiations—recent foreign trade practices have placed our textile industry in an untenable situation.