

more, the production of textiles seriously affects areas which have been designated as low income or poverty level. In 373 counties in Appalachia, approximately 75 percent of the jobs are affiliated with some segment of the textile industry.

I am sure the committee will consider what I have said judiciously. Thank you for extending this privilege to me.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. St. Onge, for taking time from your busy schedule to share your views with us.

Mr. ST. ONGE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it has been a pleasure.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is the Honorable Louis C. Wyman, our colleague from New Hampshire. Welcome, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. LOUIS C. WYMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. WYMAN. My name is Louis C. Wyman. I represent the First Congressional District of New Hampshire. I was pleased to introduce a bill, H.R. 11813, which is identical to that introduced by the chairman, H.R. 11578, and by a substantial number of my colleagues not only from New England but throughout the country. In New Hampshire, the textile-apparel industry provides 13,000 jobs, ranks third in size among our industries, and accounts for 13½ percent of our manufacturing employment. In addition to this, we have over 2,000 people producing textile machinery and supplies. In my district alone there are 8,000 textile-apparel jobs located in 24 cities and towns.

Similarly, the shoe industry in my district employs thousands of workers and it, too, accounts for a substantial percentage of our manufacturing employment and its continuation as a healthy industry is a matter of urgent importance to the welfare of these thousands of jobholders.

Many of the textile and apparel concerns in my district are small with 25 to 50 employees, and others employ from 100 to 800 workers. These plants frequently provide the principal source of employment in the communities where they are located.

It is essential, therefore, that we do what we can to prevent these mills from being destroyed by imports from low-wage countries. In many countries, wages are as low as 15 to 25 cents an hour, compared to our textile wages of about \$2.20 an hour. You will note that even in the relatively high-wage country like France it is only now that the minimum wage is about to be brought up to 60 cents an hour, compared to our statutory level of \$1.60 which is exceeded by most textile and apparel producers.

The legislation which I have introduced on textiles may be labeled by some as "protectionist," but in my mind this is untrue. In 1960, President Kennedy made it clear when speaking in Manchester, N.H., that he intended to solve the textile import problem, and in early 1961 announced a program for this purpose. I am glad to say that this was carried out for cotton textiles and that an international agreement now exists which permits us to exercise some measure of restraint on imports of these products. It should be noted, however, that this could hardly be called restrictive, as imports of cotton textiles have risen from \$199 million in 1960 to \$417 million last year.