of import restraints. Uncontrolled wool textile imports went up by 50 percent and manmade fiber textile imports rocketed up from 164 to 934 million square yards, or 470 percent, over the same period.

In the first quarter of 1968, total textile imports of cotton, manmade fiber, wool, and blends thereof reached an alltime high annual rate of 3.1 billion square yards, a 14-percent increase over the previous record. The most rapid rate of increase continues to be in the manmade fiber division of the industry. Manmade fiber textile imports jumped 22 percent from first quarter 1967 to first quarter 1968. Chart II gives a quick overall view of the import pattern, which is steeply upward at all stages of manufacture. The present alltime high level of imports will double by 1974, if recent trends continue.

The rapidity with which imports of particular product groups grow is well illustrated by cotton yarn developments of the past year. Raw cotton represents over half the cost of manufacturing grey yarn. Raw cotton costs in the United States advanced from July to December 1967 by about one-third. The equivalent yarn marketing period would be approximately August to February. Cotton yarn prices rose during this period by 15 percent.

Yarn importers booked heavy orders in the fall, and these imports began arriving in U.S. ports in December 1967. The average monthly cotton yarn import level from July to November 1967 was 2.7 million pounds per month; the level during the December 1967 to March 1968 period averaged well above 6.0 million pounds.

Incidentally, the six countries which have, for the past 30 months, represented more than 83 percent of all cotton yarn imported either grow the major part of their cotton requirements or have captive sources. None of these countries buys any important quantity of American cotton. Of course, the rigid U.S. import quota on raw cotton—less than a day's requirements of upland types—is in effect being bypassed by this business.

The impact of imports is not a single force equally distributed over all sectors at the same time. The numerous, random concentrations disrupt some segments of the market and then others. The repetition of the pattern is so consistent and widespread that no segment of the industry and no mill, no matter how specialized in its product, is immune from the direct and indirect impact of such concentrated attack. Each foreign supplier is free to strike at random—and does.

American woven label producers have lost virtually the entire ladies' dress industry market to import competition, chiefly Japanese. The imported labels are being sold at less than half of the U.S. price.

Let me introduce Mr. Morton H. Darman, president of the Top Co., Boston, Mass., and chairman of the board of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.

In recent weeks, member mills have reported to us curtailed operations over a wide range of production, including corduroy, drapery and upholstery fabrics, buffing fabrics, enameling duck fabrics, sheetings, jeans, drills, twills, sailcloth, and shirtings. A major adverse factor in the present market for each of these products is import competition from the low-wage countries.