I would like to ask you two specific questions. First, we are told that if we enacted this legislation it would mean higher prices for textiles.

Would you comment on that?

Mr. DENT. Yes, sir. Mr. Landrum, as Mr. Darman previously indicated, the recommendation would not change the makeup of the American market inasmuch as a rollback of imports is not contemplated and therefore those factors, including imports and domestic production, which through competitive forces, have established a market level in the United States today, would still be in effect to the same degree so that it is hard to visualize prices accelerating.

Mr. LANDRUM. Would the enactment of this legislation in any way reduce the consumer's range of choice of textile products?

Mr. DENT. There, again, sir, there is no rollback involved and it is hard to see how it would affect the choice of the consumer. Apropos of your price question, I might observe the fact that the latest Wholesale Price Index for all industrial commodities is 108.

For cotton products it is 105. On manmade fiber textiles, the Wholesale Price Index is 89. The one area in the textile field which is almost completely dominated by imports and which is controlled by foreign sources is that of silk products and the Wholesale Price Index today on silk products is 197, so that you can see that control of supply to this market in the hands of foreigners has led to a great acceleration of price levels, whereas the domestic competition has not only maintained the price level below the average but even reduced it.

Mr. LANDRUM. Mr. Dent, your overall statement indicated that the textile industry is a vast economic complex. I wonder if you could tell us in a little more detail just what contribution this textile industry makes to our economy and what other business activities are affected or depend upon it?

Mr. DENT. Yes, sir. There are approximately 7,000 textile mills scattered throughout the country. There are in the neighborhood of 29,000 apparel plants. Including fiber production these are the largest employers of labor in the country today.

Our textile industry consumes 300 million pounds of cornstarch each year. We utilize for our production processes 16 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

In 1966, we purchased 640 million dollars' worth of textile machinery for our plants. In the same year, we spent $500 million with the construction industries of this country for renovation and expansion of our plants.

The trucking industry moves 90 percent of our finished products. Of course, the railroads handle bulk deliveries of raw cotton. The banking, insurance, and many other service industries are deeply involved with our industry.

I think this gives you a sense of perspective as to our involvement in the American economy as a whole.

Mr. LANDRUM. So, actually, it is interwoven with our entire economy.

Mr. DENT. Absolutely.

Mr. LANDRUM. Now, I want to refer particularly to the statement that was made by one witness last week. Here is essentially what he said. Textiles, oil, steel, and chemicals are noncompetitive and high-cost industries. You made the point this morning that the textile in-