

Group, which is chaired by the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Landrum, to say that they concur in this statement. Their names are available in my office, and should you desire we can provide them for the record.

Mr. BURKE. Our next witness is Mr. Bernard L. Hohenberg, chairman, and Michael P. Daniels, counsel, American Importers Association, Textile and Apparel Group.

Will you identify yourselves.

STATEMENTS OF BERNARD L. HOHENBERG, CHAIRMAN, TEXTILE AND APPAREL GROUP, AMERICAN IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION; AND MICHAEL P. DANIELS, COUNSEL

Mr. HOHENBERG. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Bernard L. Hohenberg. I am the chairman of the Textile and Apparel Group, American Importers Association of New York City. I am accompanied by counsel to the group, Mr. Michael P. Daniels, who will present his testimony at the conclusion of my statement.

The American Importers Association is the major organization representing importers' general interests. The textile and apparel group is the principal spokesman for the importer interests in this field.

We appear before the committee today in support of the administration bill, H.R. 17551, and in opposition to various quota bills introduced in the Congress, both in the field of textiles and apparel specifically, and to general quota bills which would restrain the entire U.S. import trade. We believe that enactment of such measures would be a regressive step, with serious implications for the continued economic health of the United States and for the viability of the world economy.

Quite specifically, in the case of textile and apparel quotas, we believe that such measures are completely unjustified by the economic facts, would be disruptive of our international trade relations, would most certainly engender retaliatory measures by other countries, would raise prices to the consumer, and would impede the sound growth and progress of our economy as a whole and of the textile and apparel sectors in particular.

The domestic industry has consistently resisted objective investigations into the facts. They have preferred to engage in a massive political campaign to obtain import quotas.

Our group has since its inception in 1963 repeatedly challenged the domestic textile industry to accept an objective investigation into the facts. We have on numerous occasions over the years thoroughly documented our economic case.

As the political pressure of these industries reached a crescendo in the fall of 1967, the President, joined by the chairman of this committee, requested the U.S. Tariff Commission to make an investigation and report on the economic condition of the textile and apparel industries and the impact of imports on these industries.

This request was met with bitter cries by the domestic industries that no investigation was needed. In our view, the resistance to this investigation was because they had no economic case for the extraordinary protection which they demanded and they feared exposure of the weak factual basis of their campaign.

It is no wonder, then, that the Tariff Commission report was immediately attacked by the domestic industries. They have attempted