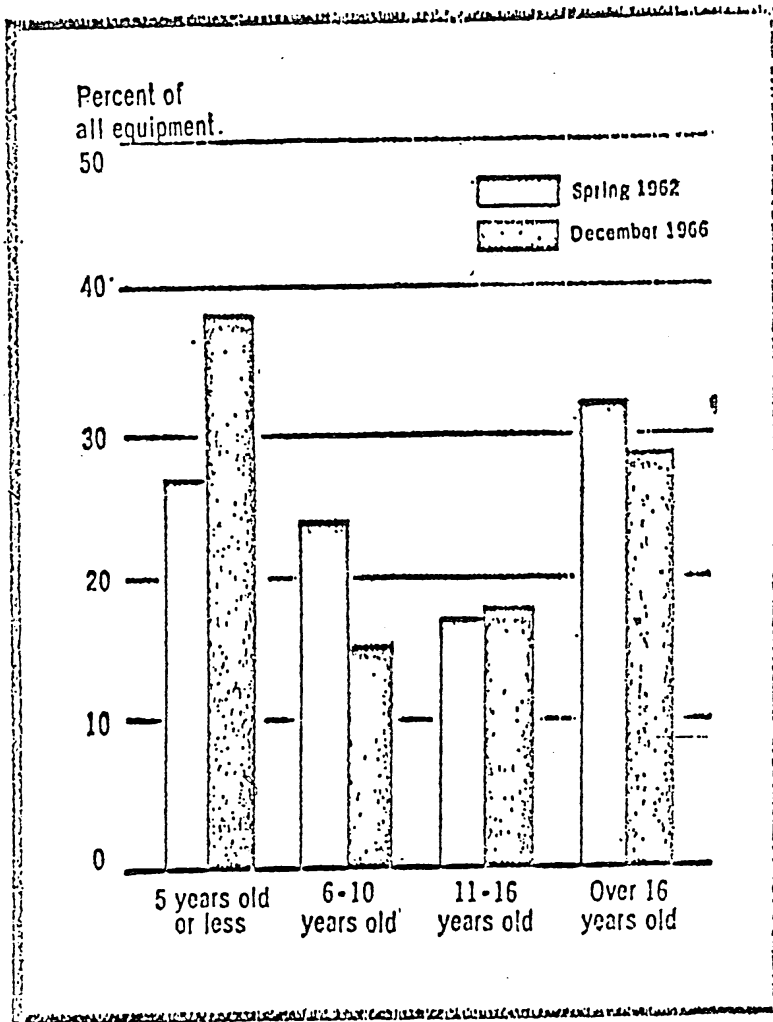


Age of Equipment of Large Textile Companies, 1962, 1966

2



TECHNOLOGY IN THE 1970'S

Three general types of technological changes are taking place in the textile industry. One involves improvements of conventional machines and installation of auxiliary equipment to increase machine productivity and improve product quality. Many of these are commonplace in larger modernized mills and are being adopted by smaller mills. Another line of development includes radically new methods of production which often require costly equipment and, in some instances, the building of a new mill. The third development is the increasing use of manmade fibers.

Faster, larger capacity machines, and automatic or highly mechanized machine cleaning and lubricating devices sharply reduce unit labor requirements and cut downtime, i.e., the time the machine is not operating. Automatic or highly mechanized transfer of goods between stages of production, reducing unskilled labor requirements, is being widely adopted. Increased use of stop motion devices and continuous automatic inspection and recording instruments are improving quality control and data management techniques.

Consolidation of two processes or more—such as attaching automatic winding to the loom—saves several steps in manufacture and reduces unit labor require-