

ratio of imports to garments ranges from 20 percent in women's and children's slacks and shorts, 17 percent in women's and childrens' woven blouses, 17 percent in men's and boys' woven dress shirts, 15 percent for knit outerwear.

I am not going to read any more figures. I am going to say to you one very simple thing: We cannot permit our business to become eroded. We have stated before you and your associates many times that the last thing in the world we want to do is to go offshore, but if we must go offshore we will. Our industry as individuals is on the verge of giving up. They are about to say, "Our Government is not our government. Our Government considers our industry expendable and, therefore, if they do that we have no choice. We must import from abroad. We must relocate abroad and we are going to have no further growth in this country, and we will begin now to start closing up small, ineffectual production units in this country."

I am not going to recite how important this industry is to this country. You know it and it has been said and said over and over again. I say to you that this is not an idle threat. Nobody is putting a gun at anybody's head. We have pleaded, we have begged every committee, every division of the administration of our country, to please take serious note of this before it is too late.

When this meeting takes place today, as it is taking place, in Atlantic City, you are beginning to see the erosion of one of the most important industries in the United States, and there is nobody who is going to stop this erosion, gentlemen, if you don't.

Our people are sick to death of the doubletalk. They yawn when the subject is brought up. Their blood boils, their temperature goes up, when they hear about the administration of the LTA and their refusal to encompass all other fibers and blends and they have asked our association, "Let's stop kidding around. Our Government doesn't care about us. Let's take the path of least resistance. Let's go abroad."

That is what this meeting is about today, gentlemen. I am sick that this is the subject matter of this meeting today and I am horrified at the fact that this expansion that should be taking place in the United States is not going to take place in the United States unless something is done and done very soon by you, and I don't know any step after you.

You know, we have had our hopes terribly high many times and I can't tell you the depths of depression that took place when the Hollings amendment was washed out at the conference.

I must say to you in all sincerity that we have a tremendous allegiance to this country. We have a tremendous allegiance to the over 1 million employees in our field, to the over half million represented by our apparel industry, and they released me from a speech in Atlantic City to say to you this is our last plea. We have made the experiments. As a public company we have made experiments. We have located adequate, substantial suppliers in Hong Kong. We are prepared to bring in merchandise. We have tested it. We have tested the quality. We have tested consumer reaction. We are going to have to do it, and it rankles us to the core to have to do it.

Gentlemen, our story is a very simple one. I don't know what is more simple evidence. I refuse to get involved in the kind of histrionics that the preceding gentleman indulged in. I would just lay before you