

United States is carried out by about 25,000 different manufacturing plants, and most apparel companies have just one plant. Almost 1.4 million people work in this industry of which 80% of the employees are women. The industry turned out over \$18 billion worth of goods last year, valued at wholesale. We estimate retail sales of apparel last year were \$36.2 billion. Almost every state in the Union has some apparel production, and in many states the apparel is produced in "one company towns."

While apparel is produced in almost every state, there are large concentrations of production in some of the regions of the United States where unemployment rates as high—Appalachia, inner city areas—and among those groups of difficult to employ people labeled "semi-skilled." When apparel companies go out of business in these places, there is often no other work for the people who have lost their jobs. They are ill-equipped to do other work, and usually there is not much other work to be done in these areas anyway. Since most of the workers are women, they are not free to move in search of other employment.

There are six areas of the American apparel market in which imports have a significant share. These are staple items which are necessary in the wardrobes of all people, rather than fashion items or apparel associated with short-lived fads. In 1967, 20% of the women's and children's slacks and shorts sold in this country were imports. Imported woven blouses for women and children took almost as large a share of their market last year. The markets for knit outerwear and men's and boys' separate trousers and shorts were composed of 15% and 12% imports, respectively, in 1967. Imported foundation garments constituted 10% of that market in the United States last year. (See Chart 2.)

The growth of imports of men's and boys' woven dress and sport shirts has been exceptionally rapid, and these imports constituted 17% of the U.S. shirt market last year. The meteoric rise of synthetic fiber shirts is a particularly good illustration of the unlimited growth possible for man-made fiber apparel. In the last few years, more and more men's and boys' shirts have been made of cotton-synthetic or all synthetic fabrics. Foreign producers were able to get in on this change of product almost at the beginning, and they took advantage of the fact that the LTA does not cover synthetic fabric apparel.

Let me illustrate the rapid increase in man-made fabric shirt imports which I have been talking about. In 1964 the U.S. imported 3,400,000 dozen cotton shirts and 196,000 dozen synthetic fabric shirts. This year, only five years later, it is estimated that we will import 2,900,000 dozen cotton dress and sport shirts and 4,300,000 dozen synthetic fabric shirts. There has been a decline in the number of cotton shirts imported because demand now is for shirts containing at least some synthetic fibers in the fabric. The increase in imports of synthetic fabric shirts is 2,100% because the market demand is for this type of product and because exporting nations can flood our markets with the product made with substantially lower paid labor. The quality of these shirts is as good as American-produced shirts of the same type but which cost more. (See Chart 3.)

There are other areas of the American apparel market which are being hurt by imports, but it is not necessary to mention them all to see that we must act now to keep our industry strong and viable. Let us look at some of the consequences of continuing imports with only the current restrictions now imposed on them.

We think there are four main consequences which could result from continuing unrestricted apparel imports. First, we feel that the apparel industry in this country is filling an important economic and social need which will not be satisfied if apparel plants are put out of business by imports. The importance of the industry to employment of certain types of people and of those in the particular area which are known for unemployment cannot be overstated. The need for our society to provide work for everyone seeking employment can be met by industries such as the apparel industry which can train the "hard core unemployable" in a matter of months.

Second, apparel producers have invested several billions of dollars in machinery and buildings in order to make clothing for our people, and they stand to lose a substantial amount of this investment if apparel imports continue to grow at the rate they have been in the past five years. Apparel-producing machinery is not adaptable for use in any other industry, as machine tools or data processing equipment is.

The third possible result of limitless apparel imports pertains to military procurement. We need an apparel industry in this country to support our military