

Our foreign trade policy must continue to weight the needs of domestic industry against the needs for foreign trading partners. We must recognize that American producers have at least as much right to be helped by our foreign trade policy as do foreign producers. The burden to our Nation of economic and social dislocations which could occur if a major portion of our apparel industry was closed down by imports would be almost unsupportable. The price we would pay in unemployment, lost investment, and social hardships of the workers would be so high that the country cannot afford to continue its current policy toward apparel imports. The future viability and stability of the American apparel industry depends on the future of our foreign trade policy. Reduction of tariffs and no institution of an LTA for all fibers will mean great hardship for the industry. On the other hand, an all-fiber LTA will mean a healthier domestic industry and a well defined market with no hidden non-tariff barriers preventing foreigners from bringing their goods to our shores. Such an arrangement is an honest way to deal with the problem and at the same time provide a growing market for all our trading partners.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the American Apparel Manufacturers Association, may I express our appreciation for your courtesy and for this opportunity to outline before you our position on this critical problem. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

TABLE 1.—U.S. IMPORTS OF ALL TEXTILE PRODUCTS AND APPAREL BY SELECTED FIBER

[Figures in millions of SYE and dollars]

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	Percent change, 1962-67
Imports of textile products ¹ (SYE):							
Cotton.....	1,165	1,101	1,058	1,312	1,824	1,486	+28
Wool.....	140	143	130	181	175	150	+7
Manmade fiber.....	213	221	328	566	798	933	+338
Total.....	1,518	1,365	1,516	2,059	2,797	2,569	+69
Imports of apparel (SYE):							
Cotton.....	382	384	415	457	485	475	+24
Wool.....	46	53	54	68	63	59	+28
Manmade fiber.....	49	54	92	159	230	343	+600
Total.....	477	491	561	684	778	877	+84
Percent of apparel to total.....	31	36	37	33	28	34	-----
Imports of textile products ¹ (dollars):							
Cotton.....	\$307	\$298	\$308	\$369	\$463	\$417	+36
Wool.....	227	265	259	330	328	307	+35
Manmade fiber.....	72	85	129	193	259	312	+333
Total.....	606	648	696	892	1,049	1,035	+71
Imports of apparel (dollars):							
Cotton.....	154	149	163	185	208	207	+34
Wool.....	114	144	149	182	189	185	+62
Manmade fiber.....	33	39	63	92	121	169	+412
Total.....	301	332	375	459	518	561	+86
Percent of apparel to total.....	50	51	54	51	49	54	-----

¹ Includes apparel.