

"For the most part, the failure of output for such products to expand appears attributable chiefly to changes either in fashion or style, to technology, or both. In relatively few instances do imports appear to have been a major factor."

The Commission continued :

"The domestic output of woven wool fabrics has, however, also been materially affected by the significantly greater popularity of blended woven fabrics, made in the same plants as all-wool fabrics particularly for use in lightweight summer suiting and slacks."

Quite clearly as the Commission found, this is an all fiber industry. If the United States production of chiefly wool fabrics is decreasing, but production of chiefly manmade fiber fabrics blended with wool is increasing, and all together there has been an overall increase in production in the same mills, this is certainly no cause for cries of injury or the imposition of quotas.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the essence of this business is style and quality. Imports enjoy a favorable market for their high quality, high-priced fabrics, to the benefit of clothing manufacturers, retailers and consumers. The American industry is doing beautifully in its much broader market of lower priced, mass-produced fabric. I believe that the domestic industry cannot only live with imports but can, as it has shown, prosper.

Thank you.

U. S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL FABRICS, PRINCIPALLY WOOL, REPROCESSED WOOL OR REUSED WOOL BY WEIGHT ¹

[Thousands of square yards]

	1965	1966	1967
Japan.....	40,380	37,749	38,746
United Kingdom.....	13,160	9,685	8,089
Italy.....	26,251	14,710	8,403
Korea.....	1,587	1,489	2,160
Other.....	3,545	3,430	3,201
Total.....	84,923	67,063	60,598

¹ Includes apparel fabric from Italy in chief weight of wool but in chief value of other fibers. See footnote 1 to table B-3-9, U.S. Tariff Commission report on textiles and apparel.

Source: United States Tariff Commission.

Mr. BURKE. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions?

Mr. Landrum.

Mr. LANDRUM. The last sentence in your statement, Mr. Bissinger, "I believe that the domestic industry cannot only live with imports but can, as it has shown, prosper." This committee has no dispute with that. The industry has no dispute with that.

That is so obvious that I am a little bit surprised that you would make it in this situation.

The true fact is that what we are trying to find here is at what point, relatively speaking, production to consumption, does it reach the point where we can't live with it.

That is what we are concerned about. Your statement overlooks that, as I have said earlier, that I believe Mr. Masaoka's statement did.

I think what you are really doing, rather than thinking in terms of the overall consequences to the American economy, particularly the American job economy, is that you are making what I am afraid is somewhat of a self-serving statement, and particularly when you cap it with that sentence.

Mr. BISSINGER. Well, I am sorry I gave you that impression.