and to all the farm people who would be hurt if our cotton lands were converted to other farm enterprises.

For these reasons, the Government has programs aimed at sustaining farm income while supply is being adjusted to demand and in helping us bridge the gap from where we are to where we need to be in a world of intense fiber competition, but it is inconsistent for the Government in another arm of its policy to permit a tremendous upsurge of imports which are undermining the very markets that have to be built up.

Our cotton textile imports which are already at a million bales a year and pointed upward have become a very major contributor to all the acreage cutbacks, all the hardships and dislocations throughout our industry and all the taxpayer expense which the Government program entails.

Now, the private producers of cotton have been tackling their own responsibilities in a manner that ought to be widely recognized and appreciated. They have voted upon themselves an assessment of a dollar a bale for research and promotion programs which go to the heart of their competitive problem against manmade or synthetic fiber. The collection of this money from each one of the country's some 325,000 cotton growers is essentially voluntary, but the number of them who have declined to bear their share of this load is just minimal, just about 3 percent.

This year for the first time now this greatly expanded cotton research and promotion effort is underway. It will require vision and faith and patience for all these people to maintain this effort across the years.

They will be looking for results in their domestic market. The results should not be eaten up by continued rapid expansion of textile imports. In this effort our producers have a fair fighting chance to meet their synthetic fiber competition, but they have no chance whatever to meet the rising competition of imported cotton which has been manufactured abroad into textile products at wage rates that are just a small fraction of our own.

Efforts were made both in 1960 and in 1962 to get action on these imports under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. But the Tariff Commission, in finding unfavorably for cotton on both those occasions by split decisions, put great stress on the fact that the textile industry is also involved, and it appeared to be swayed strongly by the thought that a favorable ruling for cotton would also give relief to the textile industry and that that would be outside of the intent of the legislation.

It should be made clear that raw cotton itself is vitally concerned with this import problem. This is over and beyond the fact that the textile industry is also concerned. Both industries, both of which are mainstays for millions of people and for billions of dollars in investment, are vitally concerned here.

But even if it were possible today to get a section 22 action, this would no longer solve the problem because of the enormous upsurge which has occurred in the imports of textiles made from manmade fibers just in the last few years. These textiles compete with cotton products on our home market and in exhibit C that we have submitted to you we have repeated the curve showing cotton imports in textile form and for comparison there we have a curve for the raw cotton