

domestic mill consumption over the past 15 years—and where is the growth? None of it is to be found there. The American people do consume more cotton today than they did at the first of this period. But *all* of the increase has gone to the imported textiles. They have taken *all* the growth. No industry can have economic health in the dynamic world to today unless it can share in the economic growth that is going on everywhere. These textile imports have denied us the growth that we otherwise would have had in our domestic market.

There is no doubt that American cotton is in real trouble and that the trouble stems from our competitive situation. Great efforts are being made to solve the problem by methods that are sound and beneficial to our country and to the whole world. Both Government and private enterprise are necessarily involved.

THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

In battling to meet a broad range of competitors, our producers are obliged to push forward toward greater efficiency and productivity. They are doing just that, but this kind of progress means that surpluses will be built up unless cotton can share in the expanding consumption of fibers. But you see in Exhibit B that our total market has not only failed to expand, but has declined. To a very considerable degree, our Congress has recognized the importance of cotton to millions of people, to the economies of some 18 states, to consumers everywhere, to the country's balance of payments, and to all the farm people who would be hurt if our cotton lands were converted to other farm enterprises. Accordingly the Government does have quite expensive programs aimed at sustaining farm income while supply is being adjusted to demand and at helping us bridge the gap from where we are to where we need to be in a world of intense fiber competition.

But it seems inconsistent for the Government, in another arm of its policy, to permit a tremendous upsurge of imports which are undermining the very markets that must 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 cut-backs, all the hardships and dislocations throughout our industry, and all the taxpayer expense which the Government cotton program entails.

THE GROWERS' NEW RESEARCH AND PROMOTION PROGRAM

While the Government has its essential role, the private producers of cotton have been tackling their own responsibilities in a manner that should 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 man-made or synthetic fiber. The collection of this money from each one of the country's 325,000 cotton growers is essentially voluntary, but the number who have declined to bear their share of the load is quite minimal—about 3 per cent. This year, for the first time, this greatly expanded cotton research and promotion effort is under way. This is the realistic way for these thousands of farmers to meet the challenge of modern science and advertising. The results are bound to be good for all mankind. But 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 on 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 only a small fraction of our own. Our cotton growers deserve a better chance than this. The whole idea that cotton can survive and serve mankind in the modern world deserves a better chance than this.

FRUSTRATED EFFORTS UNDER SECTION 22

We have tried for a long time to get Government action that would bring these imports under better control. Hearings were held on two occasions by the Tariff Commission to consider action under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended. We have had quotas on imports of raw cotton under this provision since 1939. The imports of cotton in the form of textiles are far greater and more damaging to the Government's cotton program than the imports of upland raw cotton have ever been. This was true even back in 1960 and 1962. But the Tariff Commission, in finding unfavorably for cotton on both occasions