

public opinion, and as a by-product of the development of strong unions in the apparel trades, the sweatshop was finally eliminated in the United States. It is now a matter of public policy, recognized in the Fair Labor Standards Act as well as other legislation, that labor conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of workers are not acceptable in this country. Nevertheless, powerful pressures to compete unfairly in terms of labor cost continue to plague the industry. It is the economic basis for the industry's continued high degree of geographic instability, with its wasteful transfer of production and employment from one area at the cost of idle facilities and unemployment in another. Today there is a growing tendency for some entrepreneurs either to establish their own plants abroad or foster foreign operations, particularly in the low-wage areas of the world, for the production of apparel for export to the United States.

The ease with which inexperienced workers in the apparel (knit and woven) industry can be trained on the job within a short time permits new firms to open up in areas where there are no experienced workers and permits existing firms to expand output by hiring persons with no prior training or industrial know-how. This is due in large measure to the fact that most of the tasks performed by workers in the industry do not fall into the skilled category. With the development of technology, such skills as may once have been required in the industry have been diluted by new production techniques, by minute subdivision of labor, and by the resulting specialization which calls