

communication have shrunk the size of the world and made it possible to overcome the previously existing barriers of time and space. This has facilitated the movement of apparel production out of the United States to distant parts of the globe. It provided another means by which certain kinds of entrepreneurs in this country could evade the wage and labor standards of the domestic industry. To this end, they deliberately encouraged expansion of garment production in low-wage countries and provided, whenever necessary, financial assistance, technical and managerial guidance, as well as advice on styling and merchandising. Others fostered "run-away" shops on an international scale by setting up their own factories abroad solely or principally for the purpose of exporting finished garments to this country. The rise of apparel imports will stimulate further plant displacement. As competition from the low-wage, low-cost areas increases in severity, additional domestic manufacturers are bound to eye foreign operations as a possible way out. A number of firms in this country have already suspended all or part of their operations in this country and have become importers of apparel produced either in their own foreign plants or else in plants operated by foreign nationals. More will follow this road as imports rise, inevitably worsening unemployment in the very group in our population for whom alternative jobs are hard to find and for whom alternative employment opportunities outside this industry are few and far between.

Another and continuing inducement to the relocation of plants and the increase in the volume of apparel imports results from the many