

The erosion of employment opportunities for many workers for whom the apparel (knit and woven) industry provides a logical and natural place for employment underlines the importance of governmental action to safeguard this industry and its workers from the type of unfair competition that emanates from low-wage countries. Failure to face up to the special problems of the industry will ultimately have not only wasteful and destructive consequences in this country but also abroad. Overcapacity, which already plagues the domestic industry, increasingly becomes world-wide. As domestic importing interests play off producers of one nation against another low wages and appalling labor conditions are viewed as virtues instead of something in need of redress. Japan, for example, is discovering that it is no longer the haven for low-priced merchandise that it once was. Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea have been undercutting it. "These days," writes Tsukasa Furukawa, "American buyers invite bids from all four Asian sources, and almost automatically pick the lowest bidder, as quality is no longer a problem."^{25/} Instead of reporting the progress they make in improving the conditions of their people, countries begin to boast of their too low standards, as was the case in a promotional advertisement which proclaimed that Taiwan's "Wages are lower than those of Hong Kong or Japan".^{26/}

^{25/}"Japan Exporters Suffer Ailments of the Affluent" in the Daily News Record, October 18, 1957.

^{26/}New York Times, January 18, 1965 (text space in the full page advertisement was contributed by the Taiwan Foreign Exchange & Trade Commission, Industrial Development & Investment Center, and China Productivity & Trade Center).