duties on the work done in Mexico. This development threatens employment of garment workers both stateside as well as in Puerto Rico. The situation is also very serious because unemployment in the several regions of the U.S. that border on Mexico and from which work is frequently taken across the border is among the highest in our country.

Resolved that this convention file a protest with the U.S. government and the Congress and urge them to take all necessary action to safeguard jobs of American workers from unfair low-wage competition.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

EXHIBIT 4

RESOLUTION ON IMPORTS OF APPAREL

Substitute resolution for resolutions submitted by Capitol District Joint Board and affiliated Locals 71 and 196; Joint Board of Shirt, Leisurewear, Robe, Glove and Rainwear Workers; Southwest Regional Joint Board; Local 147G (Knoxville, Tenn.); Local 609 (Newport, Ky.); Local 948 (Oneida, Tenn.); and Local 966 (Campaign, Tenn.).

Adopted unanimously by the 26th Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Miami Beach, Florida, May 31, 1968.

Unfair competition from imported garments, particularly from low wage countries, is a growing danger to the labor standards and jobs of apparel workers in the United States and Canada. Increasingly, developing countries tend to view the creation of an apparel industry for export as a natural stepping stone to industrialization. They are attracted by its modest capital requirements, its simple technology, and the relative ease with which its labor force can be trained. They direct a large proportion of their exports to the United States and Canada because the import practices of these two countries are much more liberal than those of other developed countries, which skillfully use a variety of non-traiff barriers to limit imports of apparel.

The interest of developing countries in increasing apparel exports to the United States and Canada are stimulated and encouraged by domestic chain stores, department stores, mail order houses and large apparel purchasing organizations. They not only place apparel orders abroad, but provide off shore producers with financial assistance, technical guidance, managerial know-how and advice on styling and merchandising. For these domestic entrepreneurs, this is a continuation overseas of their traditional profiteering at home from low wages. For years they have been generating downward pressures on apparel wages and working conditions by playing off one domestic apparel contractor against another and by encouraging the movement of domestic apparel production to firms in anti-union communities. They are now engaged in the same kind of activity abroad, running away from domestic wage levels influenced by collective bargaining and the Fair Labor Standards Act, and playing off contractors in one low-wage country against those in another, with as little concern about the unfair exploitation of workers abroad as they have shown for workers at home.

For the garment workers of the United States and Canada, the import threat is extremely serious. The apparel industry is particularly vulnerable to unfair competition based on low wages. It is an intensely competitive industry in which labor cost represents a large proportion of total cost; capital investment is relatively small; capital equipment is relatively simple, and in which inexperienced workers here and abroad can be brought to the same high levels of proficiency in a comparatively short period of time. Its machinery, its production and merchandising know-how, its size and style standards tend to be rapidly internationalized as a result of the world-wide activities of machinery producers, management consultants and importer interests. Its extreme competitiveness stimulates a continuing quest for greater efficiency and provides an internal discipline to keep prices in line with costs and prevent unwarranted price increases. Garment manufacturers in the United States and Canada, therefore, have little leeway—on the basis of technology, productivity, know-how, quality, style, price, or any other measure of comparative efficiency—for offsetting the overwhelming competitive advantage of the extremely low wages paid abroad. In the absence of mechanisms to regulate international trade in apparel, increasing imports will undermine the domestic industry and erode its jobs.

The displacement of domestic apparel production in the United States by imports from low wage countries would have other serious consequences. Recent