

attack on the labor standards that responsible apparel unions, like the Amalgamated, have struggled throughout their history to achieve. Apparel imports from low wage countries compete in the markets of the United States and Canada, not on the basis of finer styling, a better product or more imaginative merchandising, but on the basis of their low wages and sweated conditions—their long hours and their homework with its unsanitary conditions, health hazards and exploitation of the young, the aged and the infirm. Here the Amalgamated and its members confront the modern analogue of the unfair competition on the basis of low wages which historically endangered the employment and earnings of apparel workers. Our history is a history of triumph over the evils of the sweatshop at home. We shall not permit those evils to destroy us from abroad.

Resolved, that the 26th Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC:

1. Commends the Administration for:

(a) the account it took of special problems of the domestic apparel industry in negotiating the "Kennedy Round" tariff cuts,

(b) negotiating the three-year extension of the Long-Term Cotton Textile Arrangement;

2. Urges the governments of the United States and Canada to:

(a) take immediate action to insure that international trade in wool and other non-cotton apparel and textiles is regulated by country and category through international agreement or through unilateral legislation,

(b) strictly enforce the existing international agreements governing trade in cotton garments and firmly resist pressures to dilute their effectiveness;

3. Authorizes the General Officers and General Executive Board to:

(a) continue efforts to ensure an understanding by the executive and legislative branches of the government of the seriousness of the problem of imports of apparel and related products,

(b) continue educational activities to acquaint retailers, consumers and the general public with the deplorable wage, working and unsanitary conditions under which most of the imported apparel is produced, and the consequences for apparel workers and the economy as a whole of unfair competition from such imports, and

(c) take such action as they consider necessary to safeguard the interests of Amalgamated members against the dangers of imports.

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STATEMENT OF DEANE E. RUSMISSELL, PRESIDENT, WORK GLOVE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

This statement is prepared and submitted in behalf of the Work Glove Manufacturers Association, a sixty-five year old trade association composed of 38 leading domestic work glove manufacturers. Not all domestic work glove manufacturers are members of the association, but volume-wise the association members produce approximately 75% of the total volume of work gloves produced in this country.

Our industry is suffering by reason of greatly expanded imports from foreign countries, particularly Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea and unless some remedial action is taken within the reasonably near future, the domestic work glove industry will vanish from among those industries which have contributed much to the economic growth of our country. But the domestic work glove industry is not an expendable industry.

Let me give some reasons in support of this contention.

During the Korean War, Mr. A. Henry Thurston, Director of the Textile Division of the National Production Authority, prepared a memorandum which referred to *work gloves*. His memorandum was dated July 13, 1951, and it stated, in part, as follows:

"A shortage of work clothing will cause severe dissatisfaction among workers in all branches of the economy. For example, during World War II there were instances of complete work stoppage because of shortages of essential items such as *work gloves*." (Italic added.)

Relative to this matter of essentiality, I would like to refer to a Defense Mobilization Order issued on November 4, 1964 by the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning. The Order first states the policy of the Federal Government on use of resources in the period immediately following a nuclear attack