

rates it was quite severe, particularly in the dye and pigment section of the benzenoid industry.

Since those original projections, moreover, the anticipated extent of injury has been worsened by the unfavorable effects of the flagrant increases in border taxes and export rebates among our trading partners in foreign lands.

New Jersey has a vital stake in the retention of ASP because it is the largest dye- and pigment-producing State in the Nation. But many other States also have an important interest, direct and indirect, in the preservation of a sound and healthy domestic benzenoid industry.

But permit me to concentrate upon that with which I am most familiar.

The 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, which it is my privilege to represent, includes 60 percent of the population of the city of Newark and most of that city's business and industrial complex.

Like so many of the Nation's older urban centers, the city of Newark is beset with serious problems.

It was the scene of a prolonged and tragic riot last summer, and vigorous activity has since been accelerated in many directions in an effort to heal the terrible wounds, to ease the tensions, to end the distrust, and to introduce programs that promise at least a start toward the solution of pressing problems that cannot in good conscience be ignored.

Major among these pressing problems is the urgent need to increase employment opportunity, particularly among members of our minority groups.

To its credit, the administration has recognized the disproportionate share of joblessness borne by minority group members, and President Johnson has provided leadership in the development of programs designed to remedy this intolerable condition.

And to its credit, the Congress has responded to the administration's recommendations by enacting and funding special programs to enhance employment opportunity among those who are presently disadvantaged.

The proposal to eliminate ASP, however, is at cross purpose to these programs. It is a grievous step backward, ill-conceived and ill-timed. It should never have been proposed and it must be stopped here and now, before irreversible damage is done.

The benzenoid industry employs thousands of workers in the city of Newark and in the Greater Newark area. Most of these workers are Negroes and Puerto Ricans. Their average earnings range from \$7,500 to upward of \$8,000 per year.

As a result of on-the-job training, impressive numbers of these Negroes and Puerto Ricans have advanced to positions of greater responsibility and even better pay.

But the requirements and skills associated with this employment are highly specialized and not readily transferrable to other jobs. The prospects for these workers are bleak, indeed, if the plants that now employ them are forced to close their doors or reduce sales due to increases in imports. Retraining programs that will equip them to take new jobs that may, if they are lucky, pay them \$4,500 to \$4,800 a