

is getting between six and seven bales of cotton to the acre and our gigantic industry is requiring this for the American consumption and for this Nation.

With the currency balances abroad, not with indifference can we send somebody over to Geneva to peddle this industry away, and he knows about as much about it as flying upside down on a wheelbarrow. This is the crowd representing us and this is the crowd plundering the American industry.

This is why I am here, for which I make no apology, and I ask you in your wisdom, and you have it—you have demonstrated your great concern for what makes the American way of life operate—please, for God's sake, find some way to get these people home. Just here the other day I found one of these experimenters down here in the Defense Department telling the textile industry whom they could hire to run the industry, what they could do, the organic makeup and telling them about an imbalance of a certain minority group they had to hire.

They brought a certificate, an agreement of compliance, and you agreed that you would put even in your supervisory personnel certain people whether or not you liked them, and if you didn't do it you agreed to set up a school to train them.

Everybody is taking that attitude in textile after textile. I don't see how it is going to survive unless somebody is going to try to save it. I am not going to take any more time, Mr. Chairman.

When I start talking textiles I never know when to stop because I know something about them. I know where they are domiciled. I know what they have done for New England. I do know what they have done for the textile east. I know what they have done for the American people. I have nothing else to say, Mr. Chairman. I am very grateful for this opportunity at the last moment to testify.

You are very kind and I know you will do what is right.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you very much, Mr. Rivers, for your forthright statement. Your entire statement without objection will appear in the record.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. L. MENDEL RIVERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to discuss the textile import situation and its effect on our domestic industry. I shall make a few brief comments and ask that my statement be included in the record.

By any conceivable yardstick, the textile industry is one of the great industries of this country, and this importance has already been defined by other witnesses. However, I do want to remind members of the Committee that this great industry is much larger, actually, than the approximately one million people it employs, and the millions of dollars it pays out each year in wages.

The importance of this industry is even more basic than its employees and its wages, because it is an industry that reaches into every home in this nation, into every farm, into every business. No matter what work you do nor where you live, you will come in contact with dozens, perhaps hundreds, of textile items each day. Thousands of cotton farms and ranches, from California across the country to the East, depend upon this industry as their major customer. Wood pulp from American forests is manufactured into rayon and other synthetics. Chemicals from New York, wool from Wyoming, cotton from California, wood pulp from Georgia—all of these go into the gigantic maw of the textile industry. All of these products, plus many others, depend upon textiles.

No other state in the Union has a greater stake in the future of the textile industry than does South Carolina. The textile industry employs 149,000 people