

The industry's sense of responsibility is evidenced by the fact that it is willing to accept a large volume of textile imports and to permit their future growth as the domestic market for textiles grows.

This legislation cannot be termed, "protectionist". It is designed purely and simply to fully implement the Administration's textile program. It would permit this nation to do what most other developed countries are doing, and that is, control the unlimited flow of low-wage textile imports. By any comparison, it is generous in its treatment of foreign textile producers as compared with almost all other developed nations.

The pending legislation recognizes the trends in fiber consumption within the United States and the foreign world; it recognizes the rapidly developing capabilities of other nations of the world to produce a growing volume of textile articles of man-made fiber as well as of cotton and of wool textile products for export to the United States and other developed markets. This legislation has as its central concept the spirit of equity and justice to both domestic and foreign interests.

The United States textile industry is the most efficient in the world, with huge annual expenditures for new machinery and research. Modern textile technology is available, however, over all of the world, and hence, the United States industry cannot be competitive in its home market with low-wage producers overseas, unless the United States Government takes substantive action as provided in the pending legislation to regulate access to this highly competitive market by beneficiaries of the jet age local anachronism that it is perfectly proper to violate the Fair Labor Standards Act beyond the 12-mile limit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HERLONG. Are there any questions? Mr. Betts would like to inquire.

Mr. BETTS. Just more or less a comment. You are acquainted with the adjustment assistance section in this trade expansion bill whereby an industry or business which is hurt by imports can get financial assistance with cheap loans and tax considerations. Do you think there is any such adjustment assistance that would help an industry as big as the textile industry?

Mr. RIVERS. Let me answer you this way. There are plenty of laws on the books now that can help this industry. A law is no better than its administration. There are laws, and in the last trade act we passed, where if the President elected to he could call a hearing and be shown where these people had been hurt and do something.

We found out that these people don't administer the laws the way they are written. They administer the law the way they want to. They experiment with our economy.

I want to say unequivocally I am tired of giving these people discretionary authority. They have proven they are not worthy of this consideration.

Mr. BETTS. In other words, the future has little to offer and this section probably won't help the textile industry one bit.

Mr. RIVERS. I found this out in the military. They said, "Give us the authority to do so," and they don't do it. We have to spell it out letter by letter and, as the late John Rankin used to say, jump at them. That is all I ask you to do, and it is the only language they understand.

The Bible says you have to talk to people the way they understand. They don't understand anything.

I thank you gentlemen very much.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you again, Mr. Rivers.

Our colleague from Maryland, the Honorable Clarence D. Long, is our next witness. Welcome, sir.