



## The American Textile Industry Files a Just Complaint

AMERICA'S textile industry, not just the South's, but the Nation's, is imperiled by increasing inroads of Japanese cotton products. Unless its just complaint is heeded by Congress, it faces disaster.

To state that fact and condemn a policy so detrimental to basic American interest—as it applies particularly to the field—is not to disavow the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. The Banner has upheld the latter and urged the extension as a practical formula for expanding *mutually* beneficial world trade.

As originally conceived by the late Cordell Hull, who fathered the program, the reciprocal agreement was *reciprocal*. Under it a foreign nation would sell to us what they had in abundance, and we needed, and take its pay in commodities that we had in overabundance which it needed. Simply that is its basic theory.

What of Japanese textiles, however? Japan takes United States cotton (which she needs) at a cut-

rate price, and ships back cotton goods which the United States *does not need*; products manufactured at wage-rates approximately *one-tenth* of those in the United States plants. The cotton is acquired for 7 cents per pound *less* than American manufacturers have to pay for it. In the American plants, wages, hours of work, minimum age standards, and the cotton prices are all regulated by the Government—and finally, United States industry is asked to permit this unfair competition.

There are over a thousand cotton mills in the United States, all of them sharply competitive, and they can note proudly that there are no lawsuits pending for anti-trust agreements.

The fact is that these Japanese inroads, subsidized by this formidable drain on United States resources, and a basic difference of production costs, are putting the American industry out of business.

No one is suggesting the crippling of Japanese industry. She is

free to find her markets where she can. But an ounce of good economic sense would emphasize that first consideration of America, policywise, is the American interest. That isn't selfishness; it's the natural objection of any industry or people to getting its throat cut.

The United States textile indus-

try does not fear fair competition. It has thrived on that, making millions of jobs. Very properly it opposes *unfair* competition, created artificially and *subsidized* by millions of the tax dollars it has helped supply.

from *The Nashville Banner*  
Nashville, Tennessee

## The Domestic Jeweled Watch Industry

Our domestic watch companies filed an application with the Office of Defense Mobilization more than two years ago under that provision of the Trade Agreements Act which was enacted by Congress in 1955, specifically to prevent skills and plant capacities essential to the national defense from being seriously injured by imports. The employment of production workers in the domestic watch industry has sunk even lower than it was a year ago.

In 1956, there were 3,955 production workers in our domestic watch plants. Today, there are only 2,803. These highly skilled workers have repeatedly been found to be essential to the Nation's *mobilization* base. When you realize that the watch industry is heavily involved in the missiles program because of the important contribution these skills are making, you will be even more concerned. This is another case of relief delayed being equivalent to relief denied.

But this is not the worst of the bad news. The 850 employees of the Elgin National Watch Co. at its Lincoln, Nebraska, plant were told that the plant is being shut down. The Elgin Co. announced that it is being forced by imports to cease watchmaking operations at the Lincoln plant. It is consolidating the watch operations at its Elgin, Illinois, plant. While the Elgin Co. will continue to manufacture jeweled watches, neither it nor the Nation will any longer have available the capacity of the Lincoln plant. How much longer are we going to tolerate these conditions which fly directly in the face of the *policy* the Congress puts into the Trade Agreements Act to *safeguard our vital defense industries?*

SENATOR C. T. CURTIS of Nebraska

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*Free trade is not a principle; it is an expedient.*—DISRAELI

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*There is a way*

*to return the control*

*of tariffs to Congress*

**DON'T GIVE**

**OUR AMERICAN MARKET AWAY**

**By Senator George W. Malone**

**W**E NOW HAVE the prospect of Eric Johnston moving in with his Cox's Army of 600 to 700 employees, trying to intimidate Congress to extend the very thing that is destroying the United States of America, namely, the policy of easy imports of the products of \$2.50-a-day labor, with the help of American capital, which is encouraged to go abroad to build foreign plants and then ship their products back into the United States, duty free.

*It does not make very much sense.*

We have been confronted with a request which the President, through Secretary Weeks, has sent to the Congress. In private life, Secretary Weeks was in a business in which he could not have lived

for 30 days without the existence of an adequate duty or tariff, to make up for the difference between the wages and cost of doing business in the United States and the wages and cost of doing business in the chief competitive nations.

Now the President has requested a *five-year extension* of the 1934 Trade Agreements Act, as extended to June, 1958. The present administration is the first free-import administration the Republicans have ever had in the nearly 100 years of their history, beginning with Abraham Lincoln.

The free imports advocates, supported by the low-wage foreign nations, work around the clock. In 1934, they were able to pass the Trade Agreements Act—so-called "reciprocal" trade—as an emer-