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Passage of textile resolution

Strom Thurmond

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Washington, July 18--The United States Senate today gave unanimous approval to the Thurmond Textile Resolution directing the Tariff Commission to study the effects of imports of textile products upon the domestic textile industry.

Commission reports are forwarded to the President, who has the power to modify tariffs so as to avert serious injury to American domestic industries.

The resolution, introduced by Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) and 46 of his Senate colleagues, was revised slightly in the Finance Committee. As amended, the resolution provides for a commission investigation on each textile product upon a request from the textile industry, the President, or the Congress. The original resolution called for a general investigation on the textile tariff cuts.

Senator Harry Byrd (D-Va.), Chairman of the Finance Committee, praised the resolution highly by saying:

"I think the textile resolution as passed by the Senate today requesting the Tariff Commission to keep closely in touch with the textile import situation will be tremendously helpful in avoiding hardships. I think Senator Thurmond and those other 48 Senators who sponsored the resolution were performing a valuable service for the textile industry."

Senator Norris Cotton (R-NH), a co-sponsor, also stressed the value of the resolution to the textile industry.

Senator Thurmond said he was pleased with the committee amendment to his resolution. He remarked:

"The amendment provides better strategy for combatting the influx of cheap Japanese textile products on our domestic markets. By directing the commission to be prepared to act promptly on a request by the industry on any textile product, the resolution gives greater strength to the textile industry's efforts to limit Japanese imports.

Now the Japanese manufacturers will have to be careful to limit the quantity of textile products they ship to the United States unless they want the commission to recommend to the President that the Genova reductions be modified or nullified. I have been told by some tariff experts that the resolution has already had some effect on Japanese planning for exporting their products to the United States."

The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION Directing the United States Tariff Commission to study the effect of imports of textiles and textile products upon the domestic textile industry

Whereas substantial reductions have been made in tariff rates on textile products in various trade agreements with foreign countries; and

Whereas more than one million persons are employed directly in the textile industry of the United States; and

Whereas in many sections of the Nation the entire economy of a community is tied directly to the healthy operation of the textile industry; and

Whereas the textile industry of the United States is a vital part of our national defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Tariff Commission is directed to keep currently informed regarding the impact of imports of textiles and textile products on the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products and to be prepared to act promptly on such investigations as may be requested by the President, or directed by resolution of either House of Congress, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, or the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, or applied for by any interested party, under Section 7 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951, as amended, to determine whether any product upon which a concession has been granted in a trade agreement is, as a result in whole or in part of the concession, being imported into the U.S. in such increased quantities, either actual or relative, as to cause or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products.