6-28-1955

Statement on resolution about tariff reductions

Strom Thurmond

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Statement on resolution about tariff reductions" (1955). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 1331.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/1331

For additional information about the collection, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

This Speeches is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), JUNE 28, 1955.

Mr. President, I rise this morning to make a brief statement concerning a resolution which I intend to introduce in the Senate and to inform the Senate of my reasons for proposing such a resolution.

I am deeply concerned as to the likely effects of the recent agreements entered into between this country and other nations on the American Textile Industry and its employees. My information from a reliable source is that the tariff reductions agreed to in the GATT conference in Geneva will run as high as 27 to 48 per cent on the basic products of the textile industry.

As I have pointed out previously on the floor of the Senate, the textile industry of this nation employs more than a million persons; approximately 133 thousand in South Carolina alone. Related industries of the nation employ another million persons. In many sections of the Southeast and in New England, the whole economy is directly tied to the healthy operation of the textile industry.

Also, the textile industry is closely allied with production of items essential to national defense.

For these reasons, I am fearful that the agreements made in Geneva at the GATT conference pose the threat of disaster to the textile industry and its million employees.

Although the agreements entered into were under provisions of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951 and do not go into effect until September 10 of this year,
I do not believe we should wait until it is too late to protect the people of our great textile industry.

Under statutory authority, the Tariff Commission may, by resolution of this Senate, be directed to make an investigation of the effect of the agreements entered into at Geneva. I believe it essential that such a study be started immediately on the effective date of the agreements because of the severity of the tariff reductions entered into at the GATT conference. In spite of the fact that no more reductions can be made on the items to which I refer under provisions of HR-1 which I advocated and supported, I now advocate prevention instead of attempted remedy to the damage done the textile industry.

The escape clause of the Trade Agreements Act provides that the Tariff Commission shall report if "actual or relative" imports of competitive products "cause or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products." Under the law in determining whether cause or threat of injury has arisen, the Tariff Commission must take into consideration a downward trend of production, employment, prices, profits, or wages in the industry or a decline in sales, an increase in imports either actual or relative to domestic production, a higher or growing inventory or a decline in the proportion of a domestic market supplied by domestic producers.

Upon receipt of the Tariff Commission report, the President of the United States may make such adjustments
in the rates of duty, impose such quotas, or make such other modifications/as are found and reported by the Commission to be necessary/to prevent or remedy serious injury to the respective domestic industry.

Mr. President, I believe this resolution/which I intend to introduce/should be approved by this Senate as a preventive measure/against disaster to a vital industry of this nation. If the Tariff Commission should determine that no injury has been caused or threatened/by the reduction of tariffs agreed to at Geneva, then no harm has been done. But, if serious damage or the threat of serious damage is found by the Commission, time will have been saved by the passage of the resolution/which I shall propose. That time saved/could well mean the difference between continued operation and curtailment/of many of our textile plants.

Mr. President, I hope that every member of this Senate will give most serious consideration to this matter and support this resolution when it is introduced.

THE END