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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND, (D-SC), REGARDING THE TEXTILE TARIFF SITUATION, JULY 22, 1955.

Mr. President, I would like to call to the attention of the Senate a letter I have received from South Carolina. This letter is from 1,017 citizens of the little town of Whitmire, South Carolina, a community entirely dependent upon textile manufacturing. It is a brief letter of only three paragraphs--less than a page long. But, Mr. President, the signatures on this letter required 19½ feet of paper to sign the 1,017 names in a double row. I would like for the Senate to see this letter, Mr. President, because it illustrates better than any words I can use the problem with which the American textile industry is faced as a result of the tariff reductions negotiated at Geneva under the old Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act. The signers of this letter along with the more than a million other textile employees of the United States are deeply concerned with what happened at Geneva because their very livelihood depends upon the American textile industry. Now, Mr. President, this problem of the damage done at Geneva to the American textile industry and its people is not confined to South Carolina alone.

Alabama has 48,300 textile employees, Arkansas 2,100, California 7,300, Connecticut 27,500, Delaware 2,800, Georgia 105,100, Illinois 11,200, Maine 20,100, Maryland 7,900, Massachusetts 68,800, Minnesota 2,700, Mississippi 5,100,

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Missouri 3,600, New Hampshire 14,500, New Jersey 45,000, New York 65,900, North Carolina 229,300, Pennsylvania 105,800, Rhode Island 40,400, South Carolina 133,000, Tennessee 33,900, Texas 8,400, Vermont 2,400, Virginia 39,300, West Virginia 2,500, Wisconsin 7,400. That is a total of 26 states with more than 1,040,300 textile employees. I

I ~~make~~ this statement and I show you this letter because I fear the question of the ~~damage~~ done by the tariff reductions at Geneva is a ~~problem~~ which will be with us for a long time unless the executive branch of the government takes steps to adjust the reductions. I want to ~~thank~~ my 48 colleagues who joined me as co-sponsors of Senate Resolution 121 calling upon the Tariff Commission to give immediate attention to this matter. I know the sentiment of the Congress for reciprocal trade agreements. I, too, am in favor of real reciprocal trade. I supported HR 1, as amended; but, Mr. President, if the executive branch fails to negotiate agreements which are actually reciprocal, I am convinced that one day this Senate and the House of Representatives will be forced to take legislative action for the adequate protection of American employees against the provisions of so called reciprocal agreements.

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