ADDRESS OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) AT DEDICATION OF TEXTILE RESEARCH CENTER, SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, DECEMBER 11, 1958.

Mr. Milliken and Distinguished Guests:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be in Spartanburg on this auspicious occasion to attend the dedication of this magnificent new Textile Research Center. The Research Center was first located at Clemson, then it was moved to ________, then to Pendleton, and from there here.

This modern, commodious building cost over $2,000,000.00 and contains ________ square feet of floor space, and is ideally designed for the purpose for which it was built.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Roger Milliken, one of the foremost textile men of this nation, for his vision in building this Textile Research Center and his foresight and wisdom in locating it in South Carolina.

This Research Center will be a big asset to Spartanburg County and to our State. It will attract here textile engineers, chemical engineers, chemists, and other scientists, who will not only perform valuable services to the Research Center but who will contribute greatly to the culture, progress, and civic enterprises in the progressive and growing county of Spartanburg.

The textile industry is the cornerstone of industry in South Carolina. About 75% of all persons employed in industry in our State are engaged in the textile industry, and its payrolls constitute about 78% of the State's industrial payrolls. Without the textile industry in South Carolina, we would be almost a ghost State from the standpoint of the industrial economy of our State.

This Research Center will develop new types and kinds of textiles, and many new articles of value to humanity will result from the experiments and scientific work done here. As a result of the work of this Center, textile products will be more attractive, durable, and useful to consumers, and it should greatly increase the demand for the use of more textile goods.
Although the Deering-Milliken Company built and will operate this Research Center, its discoveries will be patented and licensed to textile industry users elsewhere. This will enable many textile mills in our nation to gain from the research conducted here, which will bring about a greater production in other mills of the new products and articles developed here.

The textile industry within recent years has suffered many hardships and setbacks. Since the end of World War II in 1945, 717 textile mills have closed their doors, and 345,000 textile employees have been released from their jobs. This is indeed unfortunate, as the payrolls from these mills and the jobs held by the employees released meant a great deal to the economy of our nation.

In addition to its importance to our peace-time economy, the textile industry is second only to steel from the standpoint of our national defense.

The textile industry has encountered many troubles during the past 13 years. Our federal government has permitted imports of cheap goods from low-wage countries to flood our markets. The foreign mills pay only about 1/10 the wages paid by U. S. mills. This has resulted in the closing of a great many mills, and the releasing of thousands of employees from their jobs.

In addition to the basic governmental policies and laws which allow low-wage foreign imports to enter this country, the textile industry has also had to bear the brunt of misinterpretation of trade agreements. For instance, the textile industry was assured of one interpretation of voluntary quota agreements; but when the textile industry objected to what appeared to be imports in excess of the quotas under the original interpretation given, government agencies came up with new interpretations of the quota agreements.

In general, we might say that the agencies of the federal government are unsympathetic in their attitude toward the textile industry. This unsympathetic attitude extends to almost all levels of government. For instance, the Tariff
Commission is charged with the duty of determining when an industry has been injured by low-wage foreign imports. Although the Tariff Commission has sent 31 cases to the President for consideration, in 26 of which it recommended relief to a domestic industry, and in five of which the Tariff Commission was equally divided on the question of whether relief should be granted, the President declined to grant relief in 20 of the 31 cases, and he approved relief for the domestic industry in only 11 cases.

The same attitude is reflected in the offshore procurement program of our government. In 1957 the government purchased $96,000,000.00 worth of textiles, and of this amount only $7,000,000.00 was spent for domestic textiles while $89,000,000.00 was for purchases from mills overseas.

Our domestic cotton textile industry suffers from the additional disadvantage of a higher cost of raw material than their foreign competitors. This is because the foreign manufacturers of cotton products can purchase cotton on the world market at approximately 1/4 less than the price our domestic manufacturers must pay.

There is another disadvantage under which our domestic textile industry labors in its efforts to compete with low-wage foreign textiles. Although this disadvantage is not as widely publicized as the wage differential nor the differences in prices of raw materials, it is nevertheless a distinct burden to American textile manufacturers. I refer to the more realistic depreciation allowances for tax purposes enjoyed by foreign manufacturers, than those outmoded depreciation limits specified in the present internal revenue regulations.

The Research Center being dedicated here today is indicative of the magnificent efforts of the textile industry to improve its products and efficiency. In the final analysis, every effort to produce better products at lower costs insures more jobs. In addition, this Research Center illustrates that the entire textile industry is moving forward in its vital role as a portion of our peace-time economy.
and an essential part of our war mobilization base. It is also a full answer to those who would inject the government into the field of research in textiles.

Again I congratulate Mr. Milliken and his associates on this great Research Center which will mean so much to the textile industry and to our State and nation.

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