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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR WEEKLY RADIO
BROADCAST, APRIL 10, 1958 (RECORDED APRIL 3)

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

One of the leading issues that will be coming before the Senate in the next few weeks/is the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. It is particularly important to South Carolinians/because it relates so closely to the welfare of the textile industry.

I do not need to remind you, I am sure, that the textile industry provides ~~the majority~~ ^{about 3/4} of the industrial jobs in South Carolina. The prosperity of our whole state/is closely related to prosperity in the textile industry. When we consider that textile employment in the United States has declined by 344,000 jobs since 1950, it is very apparent that this is a situation that merits the most serious concern of all of us. Between 1947 and 1956, prices of all non-farm commodities/increased by 15 per cent, but the prices of cotton goods dropped 10 per cent. Since 1947, imports of textiles into the United States/have increased more than 1000 per cent.

The import of textile goods from Japan/is limited by a voluntary quota arrangement. Being voluntary, it does not have the force of law. It can be abrogated at any time. It can be evaded, without fear of punishment or interference by any law enforcement agent. It is a comparatively easy matter to ship cotton goods from Japan to Hong Kong, and from that port to the United States.

The plywood industry has had some experience with voluntary

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quota arrangements. They did not last, and the plywood industry has lost more than 50 per cent of its domestic market.

We must protect American industries/against massive imports from abroad. But, at the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that foreign trade is important to the United States. We need to expand our exports, and it is plain that foreign trade cannot be a one-way street. Developed in the right way, foreign trade can be/an immense boon to the whole world. Productive trade, certainly, is better than a foreign aid program which produces no return to us.

Because I believe in trade, I am opposed to the erection of tariff barriers so high that they choke off trade. But we cannot stand by and permit an industry to be wiped out/by the flood of foreign competition. The kind of protection we need is through the establishment of quotas, reasonable quotas that will protect domestic industry without strangling world trade.

This is a place where Congress can, and should, act.

I believe, too, that the government should keep the welfare of domestic industry in mind/in its Mutual Security Program. In one year, under our foreign aid program, the United States bought over \$89 million worth of foreign textiles/and only \$7 million worth of American textiles. Incredible as it seems, we are using American tax dollars to put Americans out of work.

During World War II, the Armed Forces procured more than 10,000 separate items from the American textile industry. If home industry had not been able to produce those items, the

task of fighting the war would have been much more difficult.

The textile industry is a basic industry. It is one of our oldest. It is hard to imagine that the American textile industry/could ever disappear from the scene, leaving us to depend entirely on foreign textile production. Yet, the figures show that ~~717~~^{many} textile plants have gone out of business since World War II.

It would be criminal folly/to let this decline continue indefinitely. I hope we will see action in Congress this session.

I wish to thank you for listening, and thank this station for granting me this time each week.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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