STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND, RECORDED FOR WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, APRIL 24, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The Department of State provided me with some very interesting figures this week. They show that our government is spending millions of dollars overseas each year to buy foreign-made textile goods for foreign governments, while our American textile industry languishes.

Under the program conducted by the International Cooperation Administration, foreign governments were provided with letters of credit aggregating $95 million for the purpose of buying textile goods during fiscal year 1957. Of this $95 million, 93 per cent was spent in foreign countries -- principally Japan. Only 7 per cent was used to buy textile products from American firms.

The American textile industry, through the taxes levied on it, helps to support this program, which brings business to its competitors.

This is one of the unrealistic programs that is threatening the strength of the United States, in the name of building up the free world. The textile industry is essential to the maintenance of a strong America.

It was never the intent of Congress to establish a program that would build up foreign economies at the expense of vital segments of American industry. There is increasing sentiment in Congress to search out the facts, to discover how our foreign aid and reciprocal trade programs went astray, and to devise effective remedies.
After the objectives of the Marshall Plan were reached, with the restoration of Western Europe, there was increasing resistance in Congress to the continuation and expansion of economic foreign aid. Appropriations were made, but they were below the levels asked by the State Department. Thereafter, the State Department expanded economic aid by administering the reciprocal trade program in such a way as to provide economic aid, -- not from appropriated funds --, but at the expense of certain segments of American business.

We have sustained a double blow in South Carolina, for two of our major industries, the textile industry and the plywood industry, have borne the brunt of the reciprocal trade program.

I think that the great majority of South Carolinians are with me in favoring a continued expansion of America's role in world trade. The early history of South Carolina is inseparable from the history of the Port of Charleston, and, down through the years, South Carolinians have maintained their interest in world trade. Since World War II, the United States has replaced Great Britain as the No. 1 trading nation of the world. Last year, American exports amounted to $21 billion.

I believe that this is an important factor in building a permanent peace in the world. Trade brings prosperity, and it encourages mutual understanding between trading nations.

However, trade that puts one nation at a continual disadvantage can only lead to trouble. Our textile industry is a prime example of one that operates at such a disadvantage.
It supports a standard of living for its workers that is much higher than its competitors provide, and, in addition, our textile industry pays taxes which help to subsidize these foreign competitors.

In recent weeks, Congress has been focussing its attention on a program of legislation designed to increase employment. We have been asked to consider all kinds of programs in this category. It has even been said, in support of foreign aid, that this program provides employment for a large number of Americans. No doubt it does, but this program, unwisely administered, has also taken jobs away from thousands of American workers. A sound trade program, aimed at aiding America, is one of the best ways of improving our employment situation.

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

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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