

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR,  
APRIL 2, 1958. (Commenting on Senator Payne's address)

MR. PRESIDENT:

I wish to congratulate the distinguished Senator from Maine on the able address he has made here today. He has accurately and thoroughly described the economic plight of the American textile industry.

I do not agree in every detail with everything that my distinguished friend has said. Basically and fundamentally, however, he is on the firmest of ground. Who can deny, after hearing the facts the Senator has presented, that the textile industry is in a position of great peril?

At the present time, we are putting great faith in a voluntary quota arrangement on the part of Japan, in our efforts to keep the imports of textiles to a reasonable level. This self-restraint on the part of the Japanese is helpful, but there is no guarantee that it will continue. Even if it does, we face the threat of rapidly increasing textile exports from India and Hong Kong.

The plywood industry is one that has had some experience with voluntary quotas. The quotas no longer exist, and the plywood industry has lost more than 50 per cent of its domestic market to foreign competitors.

I concur in the distinguished Senator's view that a comprehensive study -- perhaps a White House conference -- would be helpful in presenting the problems of the textile industry to the nation. I do not believe that the American people want

to see the textile industry sacrificed on the altar of foreign relations. I am confident that they will rally to the support of the industry, when the facts are fully and generally known.

Experience has shown us that administrative remedies are insufficient; therefore, the Congress must provide legislative remedies. The first step, I am convinced, is the establishment of reasonable legislative import quotas. By reasonable, I mean that they should be restrictive enough to permit American industries to survive and grow, and that they should be broad enough to permit the continuation and development of world trade.

I hope that Congress will proceed promptly to the most solemn consideration of this matter. The need is urgent.

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