MR. PRESIDENT:

During the present session, Congress has been greatly concerned with the general economic recession. We are all well aware of the hardships it has caused.

Perhaps this situation may help us to have a better appreciation of the problems of the American textile industry. Like all business, the textile industry is adversely affected by the recession. However, to the textile industry, the recession is just one more episode in a period of business depression that has extended through the post-World War II period.

It is a long-term slump, with no end in sight.

Mr. President, we have seen employment in the textile industry decline by 345,000 jobs since World War II. We have seen 717 mills close their doors. In a ten-year period, the number of spindles in place in American cotton mills declined by 2,375,000. In 1957, employment in the textile industry was down by 6.2 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in other industry.

Last year, the earnings of American industry as a whole, expressed as a percentage of total sales, were 4.8 per cent. Earnings in the textile industry were 1.9 per cent of sales.

We have experienced a decline in the export of textile products, while textile imports have increased — by 1,000 per cent since 1947 in the case of cotton textiles, by 800 per cent in the case of wool.

The textile industry has suffered from a government policy which has encouraged the development of strong textile industries overseas.
We have encouraged foreign producers to expand their output and to compete with the domestic textile industry.

These imports obviously represent a serious situation for the domestic textile industry. However, the fact that we are increasing our imports and reducing our exports does not tell the whole story, by any means. We are subsidizing the purchase of foreign textile products by foreign governments. Last year, with financing arranged through our foreign aid program, foreign governments made textile purchases amounting to $95,000,000, of which only $7,000,000 was spent for American textile products. The American textile industry is being taxed to help subsidize its competitors.

This situation is a matter of vital concern to the people of my State. Approximately 75 per cent of all industrial jobs and 80 per cent of industrial payrolls in South Carolina are in the textile and apparel industries. Since 1951, in South Carolina alone, textile employment has declined by more than 12,000 jobs, from 139,800 in February, 1951, to 127,400 in March, 1958. From March, 1957, when South Carolina cotton mills consumed 203,058 bales of cotton, consumption fell to 193,253 bales in March, 1958.

The reduction in the rate of cotton consumption intensifies the problem of the farmer. The loss of employment in the textile industry has its effect on every kind of business serving South Carolina consumers.

It has been brought home to us, in South Carolina, that a decline in the textile industry has a depressing effect on business of all kinds.

In my opinion, we cannot expect the American textile industry to regain its health unless we make some alterations in our foreign
trade and foreign aid programs.

At the same time, I fully realize that there are other complex problems besetting this vital industry. The problems of the textile industry/overlap many other national problems. We must be concerned with the relationship of the textile mill to the American farmer. We must be concerned, too, with problems of labor and transportation, and with the status of research and development work being conducted on natural and synthetic fibres/in which new uses are being found for textile products. We must take a comprehensive look at the whole picture.

No doubt there are a number of specific ways/in which Congress could give some relief to the textile industry. The Committee should give careful consideration/to the enactment of legislative import quotas, and legislation removing the power of the President to over-rule the Tariff Commission.

We cannot expect that any single piece of legislation/will work miracles in an industry so seriously depressed. We must develop a comprehensive program/based on a thorough analysis of all of the causes of the decline/of the American textile industry.

We need not direct our efforts at finding scape-goats. It should not be necessary to level accusations, for political purposes, at any political party/or at any group of individuals within a political party.

Our purpose must be to look at the past/only as a prologue to the future. We must be completely constructive and objective in our outlook.

Mr. President, as a member of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, I am confident that the members of the Committee are
unanimous/in wishing to conduct a thoroughly constructive study, one that will produce a basis for legislation/that will be of important and permanent benefit to the textile industry.

If this is done, we will have made a large contribution/to the welfare of the entire American economy.

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