

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND ON SENATE FLOOR, JUNE 18, 1958

MR. PRESIDENT:

In the June 17 edition of the Columbia State of Columbia, South Carolina, there appears an article entitled "Old Rock Hill Textile Plant To Close Soon."

I wish to call the attention of the Senate to this news story, because the closing of this textile plant should serve as a warning of what may be in store for many other vital American factories unless the Congress makes substantial revisions in this country's trade policy.

The Victoria Mills is a manufacturer of gingham which has been operating in Rock Hill, South Carolina, providing employment there for a period of approximately 60 years. It is an old and well established mill and was an important part of the industry which provides 75 per cent of South Carolina's industrial jobs and 80 per cent of the State's industrial payroll.

Those mills which specialize in the manufacture of gingham have been particularly hard hit by the impact of imports from abroad, principally from Japan. Under the voluntary quota arrangement which the Japanese government established for a five-year period beginning January 1, 1957, the Japanese limit themselves to sending 35 million square yards of Japanese gingham to this country each year. This amounts to almost 20 per cent of the total American production of gingham cloth, ^{which} in 1957, amounted to 180,000,000 square yards.

This is a disproportionate share of the gingham sold on the American market.

There is no estimate available of the additional gingham cloth which is manufactured in Japan, shipped from there to another foreign country, made into items of apparel, and then shipped to the United States in that form. The impact can be roughly judged by the fact that American gingham production has fallen from a peak of 260,000,000 square yards annually to 180,000,000 square yards.

Unless the United States takes steps to limit the import of textile goods from countries with a wage scale much lower than our own, we can expect that the American textile industry will continue to decline. I urge that every Senator think carefully on this problem.

I ask unanimous consent that the news article to which I referred be printed in the Record as a part of my remarks.

OLD ROCK HILL TEXTILE PLANT TO CLOSE SOON

ROCK HILL, (Special)—One of Rock Hill's oldest textile plants—Victoria Mills—is closing.

William J. Roddey, president and treasurer of the firm, announced the plant will close when the processing of materials on hand is completed.

He cited "bad business conditions" as forcing the closing of the plant.

Victoria Mill, manufacturer of gingham, has been operating here for approximately 60 years.

Roddey did not say when the closing process would be completed. The plant has not been sold, he said, and future status cannot be determined at this time.

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