

# Imports Policies Are Called Unfair

"The virtually unrestricted flow of textile imports into this country is working to nullify our strong commitment to provide jobs for the unskilled in underdeveloped areas of our own country," the president of the textile industry's central trade association told Congress.

Testifying at foreign trade hearings being conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee, Frederick B. Dent, president of Mayfair Mills, Arcadia, S. C., and president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, said, "When we have such critical needs at home, the United States no longer can afford to use textile trade as a means of creating jobs and prosperity overseas.

"A growing textile industry can be the vehicle for putting some of our underdeveloped areas on their feet economically by providing the needed jobs," Mr. Dent said.

## Provides A Million Jobs

Pointing out that one out of every four manufacturing jobs in the Appalachia Development Region is in the textile industry and that the fiber-textile-apparel complex provides one million jobs in and around Appalachia, Mr. Dent said, "There is no area of the United States where the importance of the textile industry, and its hundreds of thousands of jobs for diverse skills, is better illustrated than in the Appalachia Development Region.

"Negro employment in the textile mill industry has grown rapidly in recent years. The textile mill industry in 1967 provided employment for more than 82,000 Negroes. While overall textile employment has increased by only 2.8 per cent since 1960, employment of Negroes has increased by 270 per cent. This has meant more than 52,000 new jobs for Negroes in the textile mill industry, primarily in southern states."

## Charges Unfair Competition

Mr. Dent charged that the United States is practicing "one-sided idealism" which is forcing many American industries to compete on the basis of unfair trade.

He said the United States is taking "more than its fair share" of textile imports from the less-developed countries.

"The United States absorbed 82 per cent of the total textile exports of 19 less-developed countries to the European Economic Community, Japan, and the U. S. A.," he said. "Japan let in one per cent and the EEC, with about the same population as the U. S. A., took 17 per cent of the total. The LDC's together had large textile trade deficits with Japan and with the EEC."

At the same time, he said, "Subsidies paid by foreign governments on sales of textiles to the United States are creating conditions of unfair competition and market disruption." He cited examples of how Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Brazil, and the nations of the European Economic Community subsidize manu-

facturers selling textiles in the United States market.

"In view of the subsidies being paid on textile exports to the United States, the non-tariff barriers raised against U. S. textile exports around the world, and the bilateral agreements between foreign nations, the real questions are, why does not the United States government invoke our right of retaliation, and why does not free trade mean fair trade?" Mr. Dent asked.

He pointed out that imports of cotton textiles have doubled over the last six years that wool textile imports went up by 50 per cent and imports of man-made fiber textile products increased by 470 per cent.

During the first quarter of 1968, he said, imports of cotton, man-made fiber and wool textiles "reached an all-time high annual rate of 3.1-billion square yards, a 14 per cent increase over the previous record" (2.8-billion square yards in 1966).

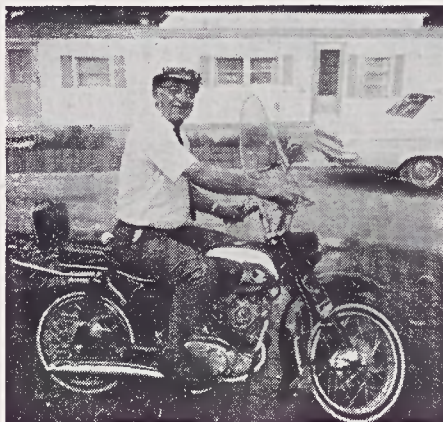
## Trade Deficit \$766-Million

Mr. Dent said the United States' textile trade deficit in 1967 was \$766-million and that this deficit exists because the American textile industry must compete with products manufactured "under wage rates and working conditions illegal in this country.

"Should a textile article which could not be shipped legally across state lines were it manufactured in the United States be allowed open access in unlimited volume to this market provided only that the sweatshop is located 12 miles offshore?" he asked.

He said the solution to the textile import problem lies in passage of the Mills Bill which has been co-sponsored by 196 members of the House of Representatives.

## Retiree Enjoys Life



This Fieldcrest retiree is a real swinger.

He is Troy Priddy, who retired from the Karastan Mill in 1966 with over 42 years of continuous service. He was a weaver during most of his years with the Company.

Mr. Priddy lives on Highway 87, between Eden and Reidsville. He raises a



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Melvin B. Franklin ..... General Offices

"small garden" (2 acres) and enjoys a number of activities, including riding his son-in-law's motorcycle. He said, "Retirement gets sweeter every day."

THE MILL WHISTLE