

ILGWU Congressional resolution. It has not been introduced yet and they are in the process of soliciting support. This is a national proposal.

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SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the textile and apparel industries, America's largest factory employers, face extinction from ever increasing imports and have already eliminated hundreds of thousands of jobs; and,

WHEREAS, during the last 25 years, 660,000 job opportunities have been lost in the apparel industry alone because of greater and greater levels of import penetration; and,

WHEREAS, the present 950,000 jobs in apparel are in serious jeopardy as imports of textiles and apparel continue to increase; and,

WHEREAS, because of the continuing flood of imports, unemployment in the apparel industry is far above the national average so that in 1982, when the national average was 9.7%, unemployment in this industry was 15.4%, and five years ago, when the national average was 6.1%, unemployment in apparel was 9.3%; and,

WHEREAS, the destruction of jobs in the textile and apparel industries is a national tragedy of wide spread consequences because: - - -

- a) there are more production workers employed in this sector of the economy than the combined total of workers employed in the basic steel, auto assembly and chemical industries;
- b) the overwhelming number of workers employed in this sector are women and minorities with few other skills and limited opportunities for alternative employment;
- c) other industries which might have offered alternative employment such as electronics, steel and auto have also been severely damaged by imports;

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d) a rise in unemployment in this sector of the economy is quickly reflected in rising welfare and relief rolls and other costly social ills; and,

WHEREAS, apparel imports continue to increase only because of the low wages paid in countries such as Hong Kong (\$1.18 per hour), South Korea (\$0.63 per hour) and mainland China (\$0.16 per hour); and,

WHEREAS, past policies such as cutting taxes or increasing transfer payments designed to stimulate the economy by increasing consumer demand, won't work in the textile and apparel industries because they will result in purchases of more imports and will provide no benefit to the domestic market; and,

WHEREAS, the multifiber agreements entered into by the United States in the past have not resulted in a live-and-let live policy for the textile and apparel industries, but have resulted in a much faster rate growth of imports than of domestic production, so that in 1982, a recession year, as the American market for apparel grew at a slow 1.8%, imports expanded by 5.5%, while domestic production fell by 10.2%,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that America roll back the percentage of the American market now occupied by imports to 25% of consumption in order to stem the flood of imports, provide 315,000 American workers with jobs and prevent annihilation of America's textile and apparel industries.