

them to labor in unsafe factories that pollute the air and water around them.

The United States is proud of its laws protecting workers and the environment. The Senate this week voted to increase the minimum wage, so that working men and women can provide an adequate standard of living for their families. None of us wants to reduce that standard of living, or give up workplace safety or clean air and water in order to "compete" with inexpensive goods produced by workers paid just pennies a day before they return to squalid homes under skies laden with pollutants. But if we are to preserve our jobs in the face of such undercutting competition, we must ensure that U.S. producers are needed in order to meet the demand for clothing and textile goods. That is, in part, why quotas exist—to prevent overseas producers from saturating the market for U.S. goods, undercutting U.S. products produced at higher cost.

Attempts by these overseas producers to evade U.S. import quotas, or to evade other U.S. trade laws and treaties, must be firmly and effectively halted. Enforcement, fines and other remedies must be sufficient to deter this kind of behavior. The bill introduced by the Senator from Kentucky accurately targets these problems. It also provides a source of additional revenue for trade adjustment assistance for U.S. textile and apparel producers, helping them to modernize and more effectively compete on a cost basis with overseas competitors, both here and in foreign markets. I am proud to be a cosponsor, and I thank Senator FORD for his leadership in introducing this bill.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Kentucky and others in introducing the Textile and Apparel Global Competitiveness Act. This important legislation addresses a problem of grave consequence in my State and others where the textile and apparel industry has been hurt dramatically in recent years due to job relocation and factors resulting from the enactment of NAFTA and GATT. This bill does nothing to undo these agreements, but it does go a long way toward strengthening protections for the textile and wearing apparel sector of the economy and the millions of workers affected by the changes which are occurring.

This legislation requires the U.S. Trade Representative, when negotiating textile agreements with nations who are not members of the World Trade Organization to secure effective market access for American textile and apparel producers. It includes provisions allowing penalties for noncompliance with these market-access agreements under WTO rules and U.S. law. Furthermore, it creates a special 301 list for market access for these products and requires the Secretary of Commerce to issue a report to Congress each year that outlines the economic contribution of the American textile and apparel industries.

While the industry enjoys broad support in Congress and in the administration, it has been the target of aggressive attacks during the last several years. Most of these attacks have been thwarted, but they have come at a time when the textile and apparel industry is undergoing major transformation as it pushes to increase productivity and to become more global in its perspective and methods of operation.

The American textile and apparel industry is seeking to make a successful transition to a quota-free environment within a 10-year timeframe. This transition must have the safeguards provided by this measure in order to allow the industry to realize that success.

I congratulate Senator FORD for his leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Textile and Apparel Global Competitiveness Act.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to join with several of my colleagues to sponsor the Customs Enforcement Act of 1996. This legislation is designed to strengthen our laws which fight illegal trade in textile and apparel items and open foreign markets to more American products. A companion measure, H.R. 3654, was recently introduced in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, I have often stated that trade with other countries should be fair, as opposed to free. This means that when exporters from another country seek unlimited access to our markets, then our U.S. producers should likewise have open access to their country's markets. Many examples exist where the United States has given another country access to our marketplace, only to have our access limited in their country. The legislation we are introducing today attempts to mitigate this practice. This measure will require the USTR to secure effective market access for U.S. produced textile and apparel products. Further, if these markets are not opened, the USTR has the ability to impose penalties in an attempt to force these markets open.

Mr. President, another major concern this legislation attempts to address is transshipping. This is a practice where an exporter ships goods through a third country to avoid U.S. import quotas. The worst offenders in the area of transshipment countries are China, India, and Pakistan. It is estimated that transshipments account for at least 4 billion dollars' worth of the textile and apparel items shipped into the United States in a year and this figure could be as high as \$8 billion. This bill, Mr. President, tightens the requirements for importing items into this country and provides for better documentation so that transshipping can be more easily traced. Further, penalties are increased for each transshipping violation.

Mr. President, this is not a protectionist bill. Nor does it limit textile

imports. This measure attempts to level the playing field for the domestic textile and apparel industry. I hope my colleagues will support this measure and move it expeditiously through the legislative process.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1397

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to provide for State control over fair housing matters, and for other purposes.

S. 1868

At the request of Mr. BREAU, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. JOHNSTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1868, a bill to amend the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 to promote the use of deepwater ports to transport Outer Continental Shelf oil by reducing unnecessary and duplicative regulatory requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1938

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] and the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] were added as cosponsors of S. 1938, a bill to enact the model Good Samaritan Act Food Donation Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1943

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt inmates from the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements of such Act, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 278—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 278

Whereas, in the case of *State of Florida v. Kathleen Bush*, Case No. 96-6912 CF10(A), pending in the Circuit Court for Broward County, Florida, testimony and document production has been requested from Mary Chiles, an employee on the staff of Senator Bob Graham;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony or documents relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently