

## POLICY POSITION

### 14. TEXTILE IMPORTS

Imports of textile and apparel products to the United States from around the world have soared to an all-time record high of 4.9 billion square yard equivalents in the first six months of 1984. This rate will reach 10 billion square yards by the end of the year. Our textile and apparel trade deficit for the first half of 1984 has reached \$7.4 billion, up 59 percent over the first six months of 1983 and will reach \$15 billion by the end of the year.

The domestic fiber, textile and apparel industry employs over two million Americans, a majority of whom are women and many are minorities. Imports of textiles and apparel are putting these jobs at risk by disrupting American markets, causing production slowdowns, layoffs and plant closings in many areas, creating an adverse investment climate, particularly in the South. The present level of imports of textiles and apparel represents nearly 1,000,000 jobs which are unavailable to American workers.

#### Recommendations

The Southern Legislative Conference urges the federal government to freeze textile and apparel imports to the 1983 level and thereafter to hold the growth of such imports to a rate not greater than the growth of our domestic textile and apparel market.

Adopted at the Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting on August 15, 1984, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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