

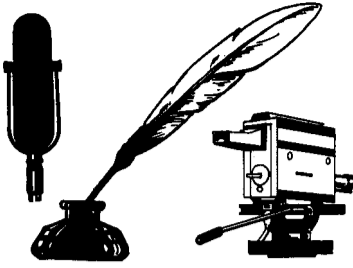
**The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Chamber of Commerce, Shelby, NC, January 21, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--

January 21, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford before the Shelby, N.C., Chamber of Commerce, Jan. 21, 1972.

Richard M. Nixon is a man who keeps his promises. Some of the best proof of that statement is in the agreements entered into last October which limit the flow of Far Eastern textiles to the American market.

What was the situation prior to that agreement? Employment in the textile and apparel industry had declined by over 100,000 workers during the period of import upsurge of the last two and a half years. Record high imports of textile and apparel products were continuing to increase at an extremely high rate. In the first eight months of 1971, man-made fiber textile imports--compared with the same eight months of 1970--were up 84 per cent for Taiwan, 74 per cent for Japan, 71 per cent for Korea, and 28 per cent for Hong Kong.

Something that is too little known by Americans is that the textile and apparel industry is the largest employer of all U.S. manufacturing industries. But the President knows this well. It was the reason why he declared in campaigning for the Presidency in 1968 that he would curb the flow of textile imports.

The agreement with the Far Eastern nations on textile imports has helped to fulfill that 1968 Nixon campaign promise. The four Asian areas involved account for about a third of the total U.S. textile imports.

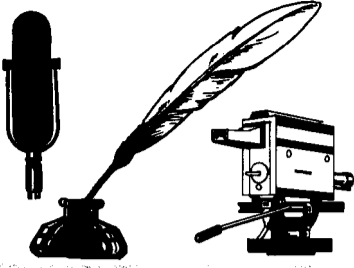
Japanese trade officials have predicted that their textile imports to the United States will decline by about a third because of the Nixon agreement.

The textile imports accord is sure to help alleviate the unemployment situation in the Nation and especially in North Carolina, where tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in the last two years as the influx of foreign textile products has gone unchecked.

With the new limitations, this import flood should be effectively stemmed, jobs should be protected, and the American textile industry may well enter upon a period of expansion. This would bring new jobs to North Carolina and better products to the American consumer. All of this is due to the negotiating talents of the Nixon Administration and the integrity of a President who keeps his promises.

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