

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREAT-
MENT OF CERTAIN WOOL PROD-
UCTS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, along with my colleague Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER of Fairport, NY, to introduce a bill to correct a harmful competitive imbalance that has developed because of an aberration in our tariff schedule. This bill is a companion to the one recently introduced by the two Senators from New York, DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, AL D'AMATO along with Senator ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

The Chicago based M. Wile & Co., produced fine quality suits in Dunkirk, NY. M. Wile recently closed down their Dunkirk operation; 200 employees were left out of work. The company's Buffalo office is also in danger because of this anomaly in the U.S. tariff schedule.

You may have heard of a company called Hickey-Freeman. Hickey-Freeman has produced fine quality suits in Rochester, NY, for nearly a century. Unfortunately, the U.S. tariff schedule now makes it difficult for Hickey-Freeman to produce such fine suits in the United States. Learbury, in Syracuse, NY, also imports high quality wool for use in their suits.

The fact is that companies like M. Wile, Hickey-Freeman, and Learbury must import very high quality wool fabric used to make men's and boy's suits. To do so, they pay a tariff of 31.7 percent. They compete with companies that import finished wool suits from a number of countries. If the imported suits are from Canada, the importers pay no tariff at all due to NAFTA regulations. I'm told that Canadian shipments of men's suits into the United States have gone from 0 to 1.5 million in the past 10 years.

If from Mexico, the tariff is 11 percent. If from other countries around the world, 20.2 percent. Domestic tailors are clearly at a disadvantage. The tariff structure forces an incentive to import finished suits from abroad, which takes critical jobs away from American suit manufacturers.

The results of this have been noticed in western and central New York, and Pennsylvania. In fact, production of fine suits in the United States has dropped by 40 percent, and the number of employees has been cut from 58,000 to around 30,000. These are high paying jobs that have been lost to this unfair tariff schedule.

This problem can be corrected before the entire industry is lost. This bill can be an important tool to correct the problem. It suspends these tariffs through December 31, 2004 on the highest grade of wool—called Super 90's—produced only in a limited way domestically. It would also reduce the tariffs for slightly lower grades of fabric—Super 70's and 80's—to 20.2 percent, which is the same as the tariff on finished wool suits other than those from Canada or Mexico which receive more favorable treatment under NAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a critical problem for suit manufacturers such as M. Wile, Hickey-Freeman, and Learbury. I urge my colleagues to support this important effort to save American jobs.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL WILLIAM R.
ANDERSON

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 3, the day will mark the 40th anniversary of a great feat in U.S. Naval history when Columbia, TN resident and former Congressman, Adm. William R. Anderson, led a expedition to the Earth's polar ice cap.

William Robert Anderson was born on June 17, 1921, in Bakersville, TE. He attended Columbia Military Academy before entering the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in the class of 1943. He is a graduate of the Submarine School and sailed on 11 war patrols during World War II. Anderson saw action in the Korean Theater from January to May 1954, aboard the U.S.S. *Wahoo* as commander.

On April 30, 1957, he took command of the U.S.S. *Nautilus*, the first atomic powered submarine. The *Nautilus* made the first voyage in history from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the North Pole.

The *Nautilus* departed Pearl Harbor, HI on July 23, 1958, under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine" the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship. At 11:15 p.m. on August 3, 1958, *Nautilus* second commanding officer, Commander William R. Anderson, announced to his crew "For the world, our country and the Navy—the North Pole." With 116 men aboard, the *Nautilus* had accomplished the impossible—reaching the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees north.

In July, 1962, following 3 years of Washington duty on the staffs of Adm. H.G. Rickover and three Secretaries of the Navy, he retired with 20 years service to enter politics. In 1963, he was named consultant to the late President John F. Kennedy for the National Service Corps. He was elected to the House of Representatives, 89th Congress, in November 1964.

Anderson served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1964 through 1970. His best known legislative achievement is his authorship and promotion of the law enforcement education bill. It is opened broad opportunities for specialized higher education in Police and Corrections careers.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in opposition to the provision in H.R. 4194 which removes all funding from AmeriCorps, the national service program that allows people of all ages and backgrounds to earn help paying their higher education expenses in exchange for a year of community service. This four-year-old program has met with great success throughout America. Currently, more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members serve in over 600 programs across the country.

In my district, AmeriCorps volunteers have helped residents in distressed neighborhoods develop a vision for their neighborhoods block by block, and acquire the necessary resources to achieve that vision. The number of neighborhoods being served in the City Building Blocks program has increased by 40 percent thanks to AmeriCorps. One block served by an AmeriCorps volunteer has successfully closed two drug houses and a methamphetamine lab. These structures are now being renovated by the Community Development Corporation, and they will soon be occupied by new residents. If AmeriCorps funding is cut this block and many others like it will lose the support that AmeriCorps volunteers have provided.

Seniors for Schools is another successful AmeriCorps program in my district. Last year twenty AmeriCorps volunteers tutored 90 first, second, and third grade students in reading. At the beginning of the school year, these students were all below grade level in reading—45 percent of them were two grade levels behind. After one year of AmeriCorps volunteers' help, each and every one of these students now reads at or above grade level.

Gail Vessels oversees the Seniors for Schools program through the Kansas City YMCA, and she notes that AmeriCorps has "allowed us to tackle the hardest issues in this community." She indicates that it would just not be possible to have these programs without AmeriCorps funding. I urge all members of the House to continue AmeriCorps funding, so that programs like those I have mentioned will continue in their own districts as well.

AmeriCorps does more than rebuild communities. In my district, several AmeriCorps volunteers were actually able to leave welfare rolls because of AmeriCorps, and they were also able to go on to college, earn a degree, and gain employment—and thus stay off of welfare. These volunteers are often middle-aged, single parents who have been on welfare for several years. They have low self-esteem and not many skills. AmeriCorps allows them to gain valuable skills while serving their community. In addition, they earn an education award after one year of service that can be used to offset college or vocational training tuition costs. AmeriCorps has allowed one Kansas City volunteer Anna—a single parent who had been on welfare for many years—to earn her children's respect, attend college, and get off of welfare. Anna now works full time for a local neighborhood association.

I strongly oppose eliminating this valuable program and urge my colleagues to restore funding in the Conference Committee. AmeriCorps strengthens America. We must support proactive programs that help to build communities and give individuals the opportunity to better themselves through education and giving back to their communities.