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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 98TH CONGRESS

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

BILL	DATE	PAGE(S)
H.R. 4643	FEB 7 '84 (12)	E357-58

REMARKS:

REMARKS BY MR. BRITT

CRAFTED WITH PRIDE IN AMERICA

HON. C. ROBIN BRITT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 1984

● Mr. BRITT. Mr. Speaker, in this age of increasing competition from foreign markets, strong efforts must be made to strengthen and promote our domestic textile industry.

Hopefully, trade law reform will be high on the legislative agenda this year. During the 1st session of the 98th Congress, I cosponsored H.R. 4124, the Comprehensive Trade Law Reform Act, which is designed to strengthen our trade laws by eliminating loopholes that allow dumping of foreign products and streamlining appeals procedures when violations occur.

I am also cosponsoring a bill, H.R. 4643, that enforces a labeling requirement imposed to let American consumers know whether a product is American made.

Recently one of my constituents sent me a poem that I feel captures the feelings of American textile workers concerning their current plight. "Crafted With Pride In America" was written by Mrs. Johnnie Busick, a tufting creeler who has been employed by Burlington House of Burlington, N.C. for over 30 years.

Mrs. Busick's poem communicates the dilemma facing the domestic textile industry and the reasons we, as elected officials, must do all we can to insure that our textile and apparel manufacturers have the chance to compete on a level playing field—not one that is tilted toward imports. What I hear from the textile manufacturers in my district is not a demand for protectionism, but merely a call for fair trade.

I hope Congress will keep Mrs. Busick's poem in mind when considering foreign trade legislation this year.

Following is the text of "Crafted With Pride In America," by Mrs. Busick:

Crafted With Pride In America
Made through knowledge and skill
Crafted with pride we inherited
That past generations instilled.

We are a people of great endeavors
Our accomplishments great and small
We started this nation with nothing
Then made life better for all.

Products of every nature
Have been made by our skillful hands
Reflecting the pride and genius
Throughout our God-given land.

Other nations have watched us and listened
And learned from the lessons we taught
And now as we watch they're stealing
The freedoms for which we have fought.

Foreign-made textiles and products
Keep flowing into our land
Loss of our jobs and our money
Even now makes idle our hands.

Stop now and look for a moment
At the treasure we're about to lose
We are the ones who can change it
It's ours to keep if we choose.

Let us all buy what we make in America
So America can lead once again
We're a people of great productivity
Let's fight this battle and win.

Crafted with pride in America
Let's always strive to stay number one
Crafted with pride in America
The greatest land under the sun.●