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SENATE

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S.1816	MAR 27 '84 (37)	S3285

ACTION: REMARKS BY MR. D'AMATO

THE TEXTILE FIBER AND WOOL PRODUCTS IDENTIFICATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to join as a cosponsor of S. 1816, the Textile Fiber and Wool Products Identification Improvement Act. This legislation is designed to strengthen existing domestic laws relating to the country of origin labeling requirements.

Currently our laws are vague as to where the country of origin labels must be placed on an item. The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act and the Tariff Act of 1930 state that labels be attached to all products in a conspicuous manner. However, labels are often attached in the most inconspicuous places, such as the inside of a sleeve, making it difficult for the consumer to find. Furthermore, there are increasing instances of foreign made items entering the United States with no label of origin, thus violating the laws.

Consumer reports show that an increasing number of Americans desire to purchase American made goods, but are faced with the problem of being unable to ascertain the country of origin. By requiring that the label of origin must be placed on the most conspicuous area on the inner side of the product, we will eliminate this confusion to the consumer and the violation of existing laws.

This legislation will also require all goods which are made in the United States to carry the label "Made in U.S.A." Present laws do not require domestically manufactured textile/apparel products to carry the country of origin label. The consumer must therefore assume that the product was manufactured in America when it does not say it was manufactured in a foreign country.

Mr. President, at a time when the level of foreign textile/apparel imports is continually rising, this bill will offer relief to domestic manufacturers without restricting imports. By clarifying the labeling requirements, we will give consumers the opportunity to readily identify and purchase American made products.

Mr. President, I urge the speedy adoption of S. 1816.●