





However, I feel I have obligations to the people I represent which are stronger than any feelings I entertain toward my President or my Party. My responsibility to the people of my state compels me to plead for the adoption of the compromise that is offered in the adoption of the amendment now under consideration.

I am mighty proud to be a citizen of the smallest and most beautiful of all the states. I am mighty proud that my little state plays such a great role in the industrial life of the country. All Rhode Island's citizens are proud of that. Throughout the country you will find, in enormous industrial plants, and in the smallest shops, the machinery and tools which are the products of our factories. On the counters of the stores in your cities you will find displayed the merchandise which has been fashioned by the skilled labor of Rhode Island. Many members of this house today wear clothing which is made from the product of Rhode Island looms.

The people of my state are eager to continue to play their role in the economic and industrial life of the land. They don't want to be penalized and shut off. They don't want to suffer too much for their desire for international accord.

We are not selfish or isolationist. We believe in reciprocity with the peoples of other lands. Many of our people still have parents and relatives who live across the sea in the land of their birth. Many more, though two or three generations removed from Europe, still have intimate ties with the land of their forebears. Because of this we believe firmly in lending a helping hand to the recreation of a sane and clean and healthy life for the peoples of those lands. But we do not subscribe to a policy of doing that at the expense of our own country.

We are none of us ashamed of the fact that we spring from stock that fled Europe to find a happy and prosperous life here in God's Country. None of us



regret the steps we have always been willing and eager to take to benefit those less fortunate than we who remain in foreign lands. But, we believe that Charity begins at home and where the two conflict, then our responsibility is first to our home - our America.

In the further reduction of tariffs I am convinced there is grave danger to the men and women who toil in the textile mills of Rhode Island. You say, they will not suffer. I am afraid to run the risk. There are too many signs of danger.

I want to see a higher standard of living abroad. I want to do what I can to help produce that higher standard of living. But, right or wrong, I won't contribute to it at the expense of closing Rhode Island's textile mills and forcing their weavers and spinners and dyers into the street; nor can I subscribe to the off-hand assertion that our textile mills must be converted to industries that can compete with foreign trade, trade which is allowed to soak up our domestic commerce with a bounty from our government.

Our mills can't be converted to coal mines or steel mills and I am not willing to stand by while the mills of my state pay for the pleasure other industries will find in their expanded foreign commerce.

We in Rhode Island are not blind to the fact that we cannot live alone in this world which we have seen shrink through the use of radio, air-travel and kindred developments. We know we are but a stone's throw, as it were, from the most remote corner of the world. We want to cooperate with all others - but we are wary of sacrificing too much in order to win some dubious gesture of cooperation.

The Colner Committee, of which I am very proud to be a member, in a recent report recommended an International Conference to remove harmful trade barriers. To that recommendation I heartily subscribe. Such a conference as



recommended by the Colmer Committee would consider all phases of this intricate problem. Its deliberations - and the conclusions it would reach - would not be confined merely to the drafting of agreements on tariff imports. It would also examine quotas on imports which have been established by some Nations. It would consider export subsidies, and we have seen how these are permitted to work in spite of so-called reciprocal trade agreements. It would examine exchange manipulations, and all of us are forced to admit we have seen some sad, if not suspicious, evidence of such manipulations which vitiated what were alleged to be reciprocal trade agreements. This, in my mind, would be the proper approach to this problem. This would be the ideal opportunity for all Nations who believe in genuine cooperation and reciprocity to get together and formulate open agreements openly arrived at. I pray we shall witness such an international conference and that soon.

My fears for the industry of my state are not far fetched. I have arrived at the conclusion there is such danger only after very careful consideration of all the facts. Just a few days ago we saw in the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission on so-called discriminatory freights, an additional danger we face. New England again is to be penalized for its great industrial efforts. Freight rates which have a sound economic base are called discriminatory. Freight rates which are the result of the great industrial output of the region, which are the result of the wealth of machinery, tools, textiles and equipment of all kinds which New England pours into the rest of the country, are termed unfair and New England industry is to be punished by the imposition of additional freight charges.

As sincerely as I can find the power to do so I urge upon my colleagues to adopt the amendment here proposed. Its adoption will justify my support of the extension of the life of this law. I firmly believe its adoption will



make the passage of the act, as amended, a certainty.

The act is reported as being all important to the success of the San Francisco conference. Personally I don't like the idea of always having to look abroad for guidance in these matters. I can't for the life of me understand why we must speak in whispers whenever we speak as Americans. But, if the act is of such vital importance - if on its extension hang such far reaching consequences - then it seems to me the sensible step is to adopt this amendment, continue the act as it is, give no authority for additional reductions in tariffs, and we shall have made a genuine gesture of international cooperation, and we shall also have made a small gesture of interest in our own.

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