

Remarks of John E. Fogarty, MC on the floor of the House of Representatives during debate on S. 814, May 22, 1947

During the past couple of weeks this Congress has gone on record, after a lot of skirmishes and, at times, bitter denunciations of other countries, as ~~in favor~~ being in favor of this country's cooperation with other nations of the world in the promotion of a permanent peace.

Whether we like it or not we are committed to a policy of international cooperation.

This Bill flies directly in the face of that declared policy of cooperation. It harks back to the days of high tariff walls and is formal notice to other nations to keep out of here with their products, and it will serve no good purpose.

For several years we have had the Reciprocal Trade Agreements aimed at fostering cooperation among Nations and intended to break down artificial trade barriers.

These Trade Agreements have been praised and they have been damned. I don't think this is the place to attack or ~~defend~~ defend that program but I do want to say that if this bill is enacted, then every other industry will be asleep on its feet if it doesn't come in here and demand more and more tariff protection.

This is a back-handed slap at the Reciprocal Trade ~~policy~~ Agreements policy and, if enacted, it will be tantamount to encouraging other Nations to erect similar trade barriers of their own.

This bill, if it becomes law, will be a positive declaration that we are insincere when we talk about our desire to cooperate in the development of international trade. It will be added ammunition for those who claim we are imperialists - that we are interested in ~~the~~ world affairs only for what we can get out of it.

It is particularly unfortunate that this issue should arise in the case of wool. Domestic wool ~~accounts~~ accounts for less than one-tenth

of one per cent of our national income. But, it makes up more than 95% of the dutiable imports into the United States from Australia. Forty per cent of our imports from New Zealand and 37% from South Africa are wool. These Commonwealths have been interested in the British Trade preferences. We have been trying to break down that system and we have made progress. If we repudiate our noble declarations in this manner then we might as well kiss good-bye to our hopes of breaking up these Empire preferences.

There is another - and highly important consideration. In my District Woolen Mills are closed. Many talk about the possibilities of a depression. It is already squeezing the Woolen Industry. Prices are too high and people cannot afford to purchase the products of the Woolen Mills. The President pleads for price reductions and all of us know we face mighty serious times unless prices do come down.

Yet, here is a plan to guarantee the present high prices - and if possible, ~~through the imposition of this fee on imported wool~~, to force woolen prices still higher. What prospects are there for the woolen manufacturer. He is above the market now. Why should he risk everything in the face of these possibilities.

Men and women - employes of woolen mills - are walking the streets.

AND This Bill proposes ~~keeping the present high price on Domestic wool - and placing an embargo on imported wool. It amounts to~~ a proclamation of death for the woolen industry in the United States.

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At the same time it ~~is~~ effectively prevent the consumer - already sorely tried by high prices - from purchasing badly needed ~~articles~~ woolen articles.

This legislation is bad business. I can find no justification for it. For many reasons - but particularly the importance of domestic well-being and international honesty - it should be soundly defeated.