

## SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON SPUN SILK AND FREE IMPORTATION OF A TOWING CARRIAGE

August 3, 1962.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD of Virginia, from the Committee on Finance, submitted  
the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 10852]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 10852) to continue for a temporary period the existing suspension of duties on certain classifications of spun silk yarn, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments, and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL AND AMENDMENT

The purpose of H.R. 10852 is to continue for 3 years, until the close of November 7, 1965, the existing suspension of duties on certain classifications of spun silk yarn.

The amendment would provide for the free entry of a towing carriage for the Virginia Polytechnic Institute hydraulic laboratory.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

Public Law 235 of the 86th Congress, approved September 8, 1959, suspended for 3 years the import duties imposed under paragraph 1202 of the Tariff Act of 1930 on spun silk or schappe silk yarn (not dyed or colored, singles of more than 58,800 yards per pound, or plied of more than 29,400 yards per pound). H.R. 10852 would continue the suspension for an additional 3-year period, until the close of November 7, 1965.

Spun-silk yarns are of two principal types: Standard spun-silk (schappe) yarn and silk-noil (bourrette) yarn. Standard or schappe spun-silk yarns for general textile use are manufactured from long parallelized silk fiber stock recovered from waste cocoons and silk filature waste and is used for making sewing thread, decorative stripings for fine worsteds, lacing cord for cartridge bags and, in

combination with other fibers, certain types of necktie fabrics, shirtings, dress and suiting fabrics, upholstery and drapery materials.

The silk-noil type of yarn is made from shorter length, and hence cheaper, silk fiber stock than schappe and must be spun on wool-spinning machinery. The material used consists of silk noils discarded as byproducts in preparing silk waste for spinning in standard spun-silk yarns. Such yarns have few civilian uses except in mixture fabrics containing other fibers. Their chief use is in the weaving of silk cartridge cloth for powder bags for large-caliber ordnance.

The suspension of duty was made in order to enable domestic producers of fine yarn fabrics to import fine silk yarns free of duty so as to make it more economical for them to produce fine-yarn fabrics in competition with imported similar fabrics. The Department of Labor reports that imports under the suspension of duty—

amounted to approximately \$855,400 for the last 2 months of 1959, \$2,074,800 during 1960, and \$743,100 during 1961. Most of these imports have come from Japan, and, to a lesser extent, from Italy.

The Department of Labor states further that—

It appears that failure to continue the suspension of duties on these commodities would adversely affect domestic employment, since the domestic textile industry depends primarily upon imported spun silk yarn for weaving silk fabrics. A reimposition of duties would therefore place the weaving industry at a competitive disadvantage.

The U.S. Tariff Commission reports that it "is unaware of any complaints regarding the operation of the suspension of duties."

The amendment would enable the Virginia Polytechnic Institute to import free of duty a towing carriage for use in its hydraulic laboratory. A letter from the dean of the school of engineering and architecture of that school contains the following information:

The School of Engineering and Architecture of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute is building up its hydraulic laboratory that will be useful for all of the 3,300 engineering students of this school. This hydraulic laboratory will be especially valuable to the naval architecture and marine engineering students under the department of mechanical engineering. One of the pieces of equipment that we have in this new laboratory is a towing basin through which we can study all of the aspects of vehicles moving through water under varying conditions. This towing basin is 100 feet long, 5 feet wide, and has a depth of 5 feet.

The letter also states that only one company, located abroad, makes this type of equipment and that it could not be obtained in the United States except on a very costly custom-made basis.

The hydraulic laboratory which includes this towing carriage will serve to modernize and enhance the research facilities of the school and the knowledge and experience derived from its use will benefit the boatbuilders, shipping interests, and the Armed Forces of the whole country. The committee urges that the bill, as amended, be adopted.

## CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

## PUBLIC LAW 86-235

AN ACT To suspend for three years the import duties on certain classifications of spun silk yarn

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That spun silk or schappe silk yarn, not dyed or colored, singles of more than 58,800 yards per pound, or plied of more than 29,400 yards per pound, provided for in paragraph 1202 of the Tariff Act of 1930, shall be admitted free of duty if entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, during the [three-year] period beginning on the [sixtieth] 60th day after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending with the close of November 7, 1965.*

Approved September 8, 1959.

