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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-14-97

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON BE023-14

REMARKS ON APPAREL INDUSTRY

'97 APR 14 AM 11:09

PARTNERSHIP

Monday, April 14, 1997

'97 APR 16 AM 10:41

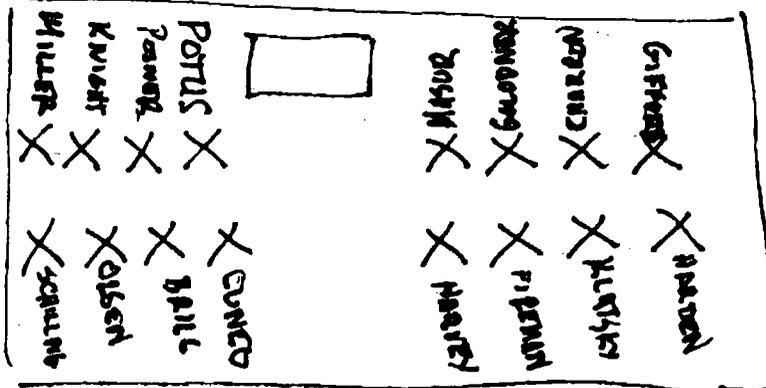
Stage participants -- 15

- Martin Brill, Pres., Tweeds, Inc.
- Sandra Cuneo, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights
- Paul Charron, CEO, Liz Clairborne (Co-Chair of Partnership) [speaker]
- Paul Fireman, CEO, Reebok International
- Kathie Lee Gifford
- Linda Golodner, CEO, National Consumers League (Co-Chair of Partnership) [speaker]
- Tom Harden, Sr. VP, LLBean
- Rev. Pharis Harvey, International Labor Rights Fund
- Bruce Klatsky, CEO, Phillips-Van Heusen

- Philip Knight, CEO, NIKE Inc.
- Jay Mazur, Pres., UNITE [speaker]
- Lenore Miller, Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union
- David Olsen, CEO, Patagonia
- Michael Posner, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
- Rev. David Schilling, The Interfaith Center of Corporate Responsibility

LUH-NOR

AUDIENCE



Sen Harkin
~~Sen Wellstone~~
 Rep Miller
 Rep Sanders
 Rep Evans
 Rep Manderson (P.C.A.)

Acknowledgements: Partnership Co-Chairs Paul

"SHARRON"

"GUM-LAW-NUMR."

Charron of Liz Claiborne and Linda Golodner of the

*all members
hers*

National Consumers League; Jay Mazur of UNITE;

Kathie Lee Gifford (who has done so much to bring

attention to this issue); special word of thanks to Sen.

Tom Harkin (who has been a crusader against sweatshops

and child labor in Congress, and a true champion of the

working families of the world); Rep. George Miller (also

a strong voice on this issue); ~~Sen. Paul Wellstone~~; Rep.

REP. MARTINEZ

Bernie Sanders; Rep. Lane Evans; Acting Labor Sec.

Metzler; Former Labor Sec. Bob Reich (not present).

SEC-DESIGNATE

ALEXIS HERMAN

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

I thank all of you for your leadership in this cause, which will improve the lives of millions of garment workers around the world.

It is an unfortunate fact that some of the clothes and shoes we buy are manufactured under deplorable and unacceptable working conditions -- largely overseas, but occasionally on our own shores as well.

There is no question that the first responsibility of business is to make a profit -- to create jobs and expand our economy. But human rights and labor rights are the most basic products of our democracy.

As important as the fabric apparel workers make is the fabric of their lives -- their health and safety, their ability to make a decent wage and raise a strong family.

Last August, the Vice President and I brought together the leaders of some of our nation's largest apparel and footwear companies, as well as representatives of labor, consumer, human rights, and religious groups. They shared our outrage at sweatshop abuses -- and they shared our determination to ensure that the goods we buy are not produced with sweatshop labor.

They formed a new Apparel Industry Partnership to do something about it. And I asked them to report back to me on the specific actions they would take to help establish more decent and humane working conditions around the world.

~~Today, I am pleased to announce that~~ this partnership has reached an agreement that will significantly reduce the use of sweatshop labor for the long-term, and give American consumers greater confidence in the products they buy. I would like all of the members of the Partnership to stand so that we can recognize them for this important effort.

The agreement begins with a Workplace Code of Conduct that companies will voluntarily adopt, and require their contractors to adopt -- to dramatically improve the conditions under which our goods are made. This code will establish a maximum workweek, and a cap of 12 hours on the amount of overtime a company can require. It will require that employers pay at least the minimum or prevailing wage, and respect basic labor rights. It will require safe and healthy working conditions, and freedom from abuse and harassment. Most important, it will crack down on child labor, prohibiting the employment of those under 15 years old in most countries.

But it is not enough to establish tough rules. We must ensure that they are enforced, and that Americans consumers know they are being followed. That is why the apparel industry has developed new standards for internal and external monitoring -- to make sure companies and contractors live up to the Code of Conduct. The apparel industry will also form an independent association, to help implement this agreement, and to develop an effective way to share this information with consumers -- such as labels on clothing, seals of approval in advertising, or signs in stores to guarantee that no sweatshop labor was used on a given product line.

Of course, today's agreement is just the beginning.

We know that sweatshop labor will not vanish overnight -
- and we know that while this agreement is an historic
step, our real measure of progress must be the lives and
livelihoods of apparel workers around the world. That is
why we need more companies to join this crusade, and
follow its strict rules of conduct. One of the association's
most important tasks will be to expand participation to as
many large and small companies as possible -- and I urge
all of America's apparel companies to become a part of
this effort.

By taking strong action to curb the use of sweatshop labor, this industry-led agreement will help to honor work and strengthen families all around the world. American consumers will now know when the goods they buy reflect American values, and humane working conditions. And we are now saying to the world that while everyone should work, no one should have to put their safety or their dignity on the line to put food on the table.

I am especially proud that today's agreement was industry-led, and wholly voluntary. Like the TV industry's decision to rate its programming -- like the new private sector effort to help move people from welfare to work -- like the high-tech industry's effort to wire schools and classrooms to the Internet, which will continue on Net Day this Saturday -- the apparel industry understands that we all share a stake in preparing America for the 21st Century.

By reaching across the lines that too often divide us -- by forming new partnerships to meet our most pressing public needs -- this new partnership is creating more opportunity for working families, demanding more responsibility for working conditions, and building a stronger American community, based on our most cherished American values.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
ORM OPTICAL DISK NETWORK

ID# 21507755

Hardcopy pages are in poor condition (too light or too dark).

Remainder of case not scanned.

Oversize attachment not scanned.

Report not scanned.

Enclosure(s) not scanned.

Proclamation not scanned.

Incoming letter(s) not scanned.

Proposal not scanned.

Statement not scanned.

Duplicate ^{cards} letters attached - not scanned.

Only table of contents scanned.

No incoming letter attached.

Only tracking sheet scanned.

Photo(s) not scanned.

Bill not scanned.

Resolution not scanned.

Comments:

Rep. George Miller (also a strong voice on this issue); Sen. Paul Wellstone; Rep. Bernie Sanders; Rep. Lane Evans; Acting Labor Sec. Metzler; Former Labor Sec. Bob Reich (not present).

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It will require that employers pay at least the minimum or prevailing wage, and respect basic labor rights. It will require safe and healthy working conditions, and freedom from abuse and harassment. Most important, it will crack down on child labor, prohibiting the employment of those under 15 years old in most countries.

But it is not enough to establish tough rules. We must ensure that they are enforced, and that Americans consumers know they are being followed. That is why the apparel industry has developed new standards for internal and external monitoring -- to make sure companies and contractors live up to the Code of Conduct.

The apparel industry will also form an independent association, to help implement this agreement, and to develop an effective way to share this information with consumers -- such as labels on clothing, seals of approval in advertising, or signs in stores to guarantee that no sweatshop labor was used on a given product line.

Of course, today's agreement is just the beginning. We know that sweatshop labor will not vanish overnight -- and we know that while this agreement is an historic step, our real measure of progress must be the lives and livelihoods of apparel workers around the world. That is why we need more companies to join this crusade, and follow its strict rules of conduct.

One of the association's most important tasks will be to expand participation to as many large and small companies as possible -- and I urge all of America's apparel companies to become a part of this effort.

By taking strong action to curb the use of sweatshop labor, this industry-led agreement will help to honor work and strengthen families all around the world. American consumers will now know when the goods they buy reflect American values, and humane working conditions.

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Like the TV industry's decision to rate its programming -- like the new private sector effort to help move people from welfare to work -- like the high-tech industry's effort to wire schools and classrooms to the Internet, which will continue on Net Day this Saturday -- the apparel industry understands that we all share a stake in preparing America for the 21st Century.

By reaching across the lines that too often divide us -- by forming new partnerships to meet our most pressing public needs -- this new partnership is creating more opportunity for working families, demanding more responsibility for working conditions, and building a stronger American community, based on our most cherished American values.

21507755.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

2:00 p.m.

DATE: 4/11/97 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/13/97

SUBJECT: Remarks - Apparel Industry Partnership Event

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McCURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BOWLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGINTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McLARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PODESTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RUFF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATHEWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAINES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	REED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ECHAVESTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEWIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMANUEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YELLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIBBONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPERTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HAWLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIGGINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERVEER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HILLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RADD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KLAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Waldman</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BERGER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LINDSEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Comments to Eli Attie.

RESPONSE:

draft 4/11 6pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP
Monday, April 14, 1997**

Acknowledgements: Paul Charron of Liz Claiborne and Linda Golodner of the National Consumers League (Partnership Co-Chairs); Jay Mazur of UNITE; Kathie Lee Gifford (who has done so much to bring attention to this issue); Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller (strong leaders on this issue); Sen. Wellstone; Rep. Bernie Sanders; Rep. Lane Evans; Acting Labor Secretary Metzler.

I thank all of you for your leadership in this effort, which will improve the lives of millions of garment workers around the world.

It is an unfortunate fact that some of the clothes and shoes we buy are manufactured under deplorable and unacceptable working conditions -- largely overseas, but occasionally on our own shores as well.

There is no question that the first responsibility of business is to make a profit -- to create jobs and expand our economy. But human rights and labor rights are the most basic products of our democracy. As important as the fabric apparel workers make is the fabric of their lives -- their health and safety, their ability to make a decent wage and raise a strong family.

Last August, the Vice President and I brought together the leaders of some of our nation's largest apparel and footwear companies, as well as representatives of labor, consumer, human rights, and religious groups. They shared all our outrage at sweatshop abuses -- and they all shared our determination to ensure that the goods we buy are not produced with sweatshop labor. They formed a new Apparel Industry Partnership to do something about it. And I asked them to report back to me on the specific actions they would take to help establish more decent and humane working conditions around the world.

Today, I am pleased to announce that this partnership has reached an agreement that will significantly reduce the use of sweatshop labor for the long-term, and give American consumers full confidence in the products they buy. I would like all of the members of the Partnership to stand so that we can recognize them for this important effort.

The agreement begins with a Workplace Code of Conduct that companies will voluntarily adopt, and require their contractors to adopt, to dramatically improve the conditions under which our goods are made. This code will establish a maximum workweek of 48 hours, plus 12 hours of overtime. It will require that employers pay at least the minimum or prevailing wage, and respect basic labor rights. It will require safe and healthy working conditions, free from abuse and harassment. Most important, it will crack down on child labor, by prohibiting the employment of those under 15 years old in most countries.

But it is not enough to establish tough rules. We need to ensure that they are enforced,

and that Americans consumers know they are being followed. That is why the apparel industry is forming a special association to make sure companies and contractors are living up to the Code of Conduct, using independent monitors. And over the next six months, the association will develop an effective way to share this information with consumers -- which could include labels on clothing, seals of approval in advertising, or signs in stores to guarantee that no sweatshop labor was used on a given product line.

Of course, this is only the beginning of this effort. To truly crack down on sweatshop labor, many more companies must join this crusade, and follow its strict rules of conduct. One of the association's most important tasks will be to expand participation to as many large and small companies as possible -- and I urge America's apparel companies to become a part of this effort.

By taking strong action to curb the use of sweatshop labor in the goods Americans buy, this industry-led partnership will help to honor work and strengthen families all around the world. American consumers will now know when the goods they buy reflect American values, and humane working conditions. And we are now saying to the world that while everyone should work, no one should have to put their safety or their dignity on the line to put food on the table.

I am especially proud that today's agreement was industry-led, and wholly voluntary. Like the TV industry's decision to rate its programming -- like the new private sector effort to help move people from welfare to work -- like the high-tech industry's effort to wire schools and classrooms to the Internet, which will continue on Net Day this Saturday -- the apparel industry understands that we all share a stake in preparing America for the 21st Century.

By reaching across the lines that too often divide us, and by forming new partnerships to solve our most pressing public problems, the apparel industry is creating more opportunity for working families, taking more responsibility for its own actions, and building a stronger American community, based on the most cherished American values.