

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
Friday, January 24, 2003 – For Immediate Release
Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Spratt Criticizes President's Use of False "Made in U.S.A." Backdrop for Economic Speech

"This reminds me of the President's trade policy, where they are papering over the largest trade deficit in our history and in the world."

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) today criticized President Bush for using a false backdrop during an economic speech Wednesday in St. Louis.

In a warehouse of JS Logistics, a trucking company, the President stood in front of a painted backdrop depicting boxes emblazoned with "Made in U.S.A." stickers. In truth he was surrounded by boxes on the warehouse floor labeled "Made in China." A White House volunteer covered up the "Made in China" labels so they would not be visible during Bush's speech.

"This reminds me of the President's trade policy, where they are papering over the largest trade deficit in our history and in the world," said Spratt. "The President should ask himself, 'How is it that we cannot find a couple of hundred bona fide 'Made in U.S.A.' boxes to use as props?'"

"We continue to negotiate away American manufacturing jobs," said Spratt. "In the textile industry alone, 146,000 jobs were lost in 2001, while imports to the U.S. of yarn and fabric from countries like China jumped 20% in 2002."

Said Spratt: "If the President wants to strengthen this economy, he can stop using phony backdrops and start protecting real jobs."

#