

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF THE SWEET POTATO FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE FALL OF 1948.

It is most encouraging to learn that efforts are being made to boost the sweet potato industry in South Carolina by means of a Sweet Potato Festival. This event will undoubtedly help to publicize the growing importance of this particular crop in our farm economy. Concerted efforts to improve the South Carolina sweet potato, principally through the use of an improved Porto Rico variety, have increased yields from an average of 80 bushels per acre in 1940 to 110 bushels per acre in 1947. While the total production has remained constant for many years, the grades have been improved so much that our potatoes now command top market prices, bringing our farmers nearly \$12,000,000 a year. These facts are good indications of the value of cooperative effort toward crop improvement. The Sweet Potato Festival is typical of such cooperation. I would like to commend the members of the various committees and other officials of the Festival for their splendid efforts on behalf of South Carolina agriculture.