

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO THE COTTONSEED CONFERENCE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 7, 1949.

Chairman
Cottonseed Conference
Peabody Hotel
Memphis, Tennessee

I am convinced that the new cottonseed price support program as announced recently by the Government will amount to little more than a farce as far as South Carolina and Southern farmers are concerned.

It appears that the phase of this program dealing with moisture content restrictions will prevent nearly all our farmers from participating. Since cottonseed testing more than 11% moisture cannot qualify, and since very little South Carolina cottonseed can test so low in moisture, it follows that the program will be of little benefit to our farmers. I am informed that no cottonseed tested this year has showed a moisture content less than 12%.

Also, the announced program calls for adjustments based on chemical tests upon delivery of mortgaged cottonseed. Since very few South Carolina farmers have adequate storage facilities, and since our seed are unusually low in average quality this season, only a few of our farmers will receive direct benefit.

The chief benefits of this program apparently will go to the western States, where climate conditions are conducive to low moisture content. Statements recently published in this State saying that South Carolina farmers will enjoy "savings" amounting to millions of dollars because of the cottonseed program, therefore represent gross miscalculations.

Our Clemson Agricultural Extension Service, The Commissioner of Agriculture, of this State, The Farm Bureau, The Grange, and our farmers generally are in accord with the views expressed above.

I urge you and your organization to use your influence to secure the proper adjustments in this program in the interest of Southern farmers. Consideration should be given to the addition of a purchase program or a graduated loan based upon moisture content, or other avenues of approach which will be of practical assistance to our farmers in securing better prices for their cottonseed.

J. Strom Thurmond
Governor