GREER, S. C. (Special) Governor J. Strom Thurmond told a large audience of farmers and businessmen here tonight that he saw "no justifiable reason" for the exclusion of the peach industry from the government's price support program.

"If the government is going to continue its price support of certain perishable products such as potatoes," the Governor said, "there is no justifiable reason to exclude peaches, which happen to be a major crop in South Carolina as well as other states.

"I would further suggest," he added, "that a comprehensive crop insurance program be inaugurated to insure the tremendous investments made by the peach industry against the risks and hazards of weather, at rates within the reach of the average grower."

Speaking at a special Farmers Night program held by the Greer Kiwanis club at Greer High School, Governor Thurmond spoke on the subject of utilization of South Carolina's agricultural resources. Among items he said farmers should "keep constantly before them" were: proper soil conservation methods, increased use of machinery, planting more trees, growing more food and feed, increased livestock production, processing of products, and constant research.

He said that while "new industries are pouring into the State in an impressive number, we must also achieve a prosperous agriculture which will serve to complement those industries by supplying them with the raw materials they need."