

NEWS STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC), JANUARY 3, 1955, ON
PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF FARM RESOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today announced he will introduce a joint resolution in the Senate to establish a non-partisan Commission to study farm problems and make legislative recommendations to remedy them.

The Commission would be named the Commission on Problems of Agriculture. It would consist of 17 members, six appointed by the President of the Senate (Vice President) and six by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The other five members, all ex-officio, would include the Secretary of Agriculture and the ranking majority and minority members of the Agriculture Committees of both Houses of Congress.

Senator Thurmond emphasized that his resolution would insure that farmers would be well-represented on the Commission. Four of the six members appointed by both the Vice President and the Speaker would have to be actively engaged in agriculture or in a pursuit directly associated with agriculture.

None of the appointed members could be selected from among the membership of the Congress, officials of the Federal Government, or employees of any department or agency of the Federal Government, or offices of employment in the government of any State. The Senator pointed out that the limitations are designed to insure the selection of a non-partisan Commission of farmers and experts from private life.

The Commission would study the specific problems of declining farm ~~prices~~, farm commodity surpluses, the expansion of domestic and foreign markets for farm commodities, and the problem of relief in the event of farm disasters. Other problems might be considered at the discretion of the Commission.

A report would be submitted to the Congress next year with recommendations for amending existing laws and for the enactment of such new legislation as the Commission deems wise and necessary under its authority.

In announcing his plans for introducing the resolution, Senator Thurmond said:

"The well-being and prosperity of the whole people of the United States is inseparably tied to the well-being and prosperity of a stable agricultural economy in this country. It is the duty of the Congress to exert all its power to arrive at and determine upon new or altered agricultural programs to meet the changing problems and needs of agriculture.

"I know of no group which would be better qualified to study the problems besetting our farmers and to make appropriate recommendations to the Congress than a non-partisan Commission composed of leaders of our farming and related industries, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

"Our farm problem is one of the gravest situations facing the Congress and the American public today. It is a problem that has had earnest study by various groups across the country, but still no adequate solution has been found. I believe my commission-study plan is the best method for further sound study and securing legislative recommendations for improving the welfare of our farmers."

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