

NEWS STATEMENT FROM SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC)
February 4, 1955

WASHINGTON, Feb 4--- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) announced today he will introduce a bill in the U.S. Senate Monday to restore permanent 90 per cent farm price supports for the six basic commodities. They are cotton, tobacco, corn, wheat, peanuts, and rice.

Thurmond's proposal would amend the Agricultural Act of 1949 to provide that 90 per cent props be restored on a permanent basis. It also would strike from the statute books an amendment to the 1949 act passed by Congress last year that would place the six basic crops on a sliding scale between 90 and $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of parity for 1955.

Should Congress fail to enact a new farm support measure this year, the 1949 act which provides for a flexible scale down to 75 per cent of parity would automatically go into effect for 1956.

In announcing his plans for amending the act to provide for permanent rigid supports, the South Carolina Democrat said:

"I am submitting this bill because I am deeply interested in the welfare of our farmers, who form a vital part of our economy. They must have some assurance of a fair return from their labors if we are to remain strong economically.

"Farm income has not been keeping pace with the increased costs of farm production. According to the official 1910-14 base, upon which the parity formula is based, the prices received today by our farmers stand at 239 per cent, while the prices paid for production

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costs are 279 per cent. In addition to this, the farmers' income has consistently ranked below most other economic groups in the nation.

"I believe it is time we give the farmers economic justice, not only for the sake of the hard-working farm population, but also ²⁵ a balance in our national economy in these uncertain times."