PRESS RELEASE BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), AUGUST 17, 1955

This has reference to your telegram of July 29, regarding the inspection and grading of oats in South Carolina. It is noted that several farmers have questioned the grade applied to oats for price support and storage purposes. Specifically, they are reported to be concerned over the grading of these oats as No. 4 on account of being materially weathered.

You understand, that oats are graded in terms of official standards promulgated under the United States Grain Standards Act. The inspection is performed by inspectors licensed by the Secretary. No such inspectors have been located in South Carolina up to a very recent date. In the meantime, samples have been submitted by Agricultural Stabilization Committee County Office Managers to licensed inspectors at Baltimore and Harrisonburg, Virginia. The work of these inspectors is supervised from the Baltimore office of the Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, of this Department.

Interested parties may appeal from the findings of the licensed inspector. Since the receipt of your telegram, new samples have been submitted from 28 lots in Lee County, South Carolina, to the supervisor at Baltimore for appeal. Upon examination, it was found that most of these samples graded No. 3 on account of being slightly weathered. It is apparent that the inspectors were too rigid in the interpretation of the appearance or weathered factor. Immediate steps were taken to assure uniformity of interpretation and to prevent a recurrence of this situation. The matter has been corrected insofar as the 28 samples referred to above are concerned, through the medium of appeal to the Federal Supervisor.

The interpretation of an appearance factor such as the line between slightly weathered and materially weathered as provided in the
official standards, is somewhat difficult to apply. We endeavor at the beginning of a new crop to check on this interpretation by all inspectors to prevent errors. You are assured of the best efforts of the field supervisor's force charged with the responsibility of supervising inspectors engaged in this work to the end that accuracy and efficiency may be maintained.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that recently Mr. E. W. Siedschlag, Extension Marketing Specialist of the South Carolina Extension Service, has been licensed to inspect and grade oats, feed oats, mixed feed oats, and corn. He is stationed at Columbia, South Carolina. As soon as he is fully equipped with laboratory devices, certificate forms, etc., he will be in a position to inspect and grade samples of oats submitted to him, or lots of grain which he may sample officially. This arrangement should give more prompt service to farmers in that area. Mr. Siedschlag is expected to work closely with the Federal supervisor at Baltimore in maintaining a correct interpretation of all grade factors.

THE END.