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NEWS STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON TRIP-LEASING REGULATIONS, NOVEMBER 2, 1955.

WASHINGTON, November 2, 1955 -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) has appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission to continue the present status of motor vehicle trip-leasing regulations on farm products till Congress has the opportunity to act on a bill pending in the Senate.

ICC Chairman Hugh W. Cross told the Senator today that "I'm sure it's our desire to co-operate with the Committee." He indicated to Senator Thurmond that if the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the Senate wishes to have such action, the ICC will consider favorably postponing a recent order which would alter present trip-leasing regulations on December 1, 1955, instead of March 1, 1956. This would give Congress time to consider Senate Bill 898 which would establish restrictions on the present authority of the ICC relating to the movement of farm products by motor vehicles so as to insure protection of farmers themselves and private carriers in the transportation of farm products.

Senator Thurmond stated today, as he had done previously, that it is his intention to assist in every way possible to protect the interests of the farmers in the transportation of their products to markets. The Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of which Senator Thurmond is a member held hearings during the past session of Congress on the bill to regulate trip-leasing. The Committee reported the bill, which would cover the various phases of the problem, on July 30, too late for consideration during the past session. At that time it was understood, as a result of testimony by the ICC during the hearings, that the ICC would not take further action on trip-leasing till after the Congress considered the bill or till the expiration in March, 1956, of the prevailing order issued last February by the ICC.

However, a recent order of the ICC would have cancelled the present order on December 1, instead of in March.

The End