WASHINGTON, Nov. 3--Senator Strom Thurmond announced today the Post Office Department has agreed to continue rural mail service in eight South Carolina communities where it had previously considered discontinuance of existing services.

The affected communities are in Allendale, Calhoun, Edgefield, Hampton, Oconee, and Union Counties.

In Allendale County, the department decided against consolidating route one from Martin with routes one and two from Allendale.

Continuance of route one from Lone Star in Calhoun County affects approximately 250 persons, who signed a petition urging Senator Thurmond to seek a reversal of a proposal to merge that route with another from Fort Motte.

Route two from Edgefield in Edgefield County will be continued without consolidation with another county route.

In Hampton County, the department decided against consolidating the fourth-class office at Lena with the second-class office at Estill.

Union County's route five will also be continued. A proposal to merge that route with another has been dropped.

Rural routes in Oconee County affecting Fair Play, Madison, and Westminster will not be consolidated to eliminate one of the routes.

The end