

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) CONCERNING
ADDITIONAL RICE ACREAGE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA, April 13, 1955.

WASHINGTON, April 13. -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) revealed today the U. S. Department of Agriculture has no objections to Senate Bill 692, which would authorize increased rice acreage allotments for new South Carolina rice growers.

A bill, now before the Senate Agriculture Committee, was introduced jointly by Thurmond and Senator Olin Johnston (D-SC) on January 24, 1955. It would authorize an increase of 500 acres in the State's allotment to help re-establish South Carolina's rice growing industry.

Two S. C. producers without previous rice production history in the state have established a rice mill. Unless they and other new producers can obtain the additional acreage soon, they may be forced to move their mill out of state for profitable operation. Other producers contend that removal of the mill would jeopardize the rice industry in South Carolina, the nation's second largest rice consuming state. In its report to the Senate, the Department said: "In general, the Department believes it is not equitable to make special legislation provisions for relief in individual cases regarding acreage allotments, since such legislation might be construed as setting a precedent. However, we have no objection in this case because of the peculiar circumstances involved."

Thurmond today promised to press for swift and favorable action by the Committee in order that the new acreage may be made available this year. Other states that would benefit from the bill include Missouri, Florida, Tennessee, Arizona, and Illinois.