

My fellow South Carolinians. This week I have the pleasure of having as my guest one of the ablest and most respected members of the United States Senate. He is Senator Richard B. Russell, the distinguished junior senator from our neighboring state of Georgia.

During the past week, he was instrumental in gaining Senate passage of two vital farm measures. One was a ~~one point four billion~~ ^{billion, four} ~~hundred million~~ ^{hundred million} dollar agricultural appropriations bill. The other was a bill which I had the pleasure of co-sponsoring with him. It would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to grant additional basic crop acreage allotments to farmers whose crops have been seriously damaged by disasters.

As floor leader for the appropriations bill, Senator Russell spiked an attempt to strike 55 million dollars in soil conservation benefits from the bill. As the principal sponsor of the disaster relief bill, Senator Russell pushed this measure through the Senate even though it did not carry the approval of the Department of Agriculture.

This is what the disaster relief bill does. It authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the national acreage allotments for the basic crops by 3 per cent or 500,000 acres ^{to alleviate suffering from natural disasters} when he deems it necessary. This additional

acreage would be distributed among farmers whose crops have been damaged to the extent that they cannot provide a livelihood for members of their families and their farm workers. The assignments of additional crop acreage would be on an individual basis, depending upon the individual farmer's needs.

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The bill has now been sent to the House for action.

Dick, how about telling us what you think the prospects are for prompt and favorable action ~~over there.~~ *in the House.*

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I thank you for listening this week. I hope you will tune in again next week for another report on my activities and those of my colleagues in the United States Senate.

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Dick, how about telling our listeners why you fought so hard to keep that soil conservation money in the agricultural appropriations bill.

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Agriculture Department had three principal objections to the disaster relief bill. Undersecretary True D. Morse said the ~~xxxxxxx~~ program would be too expensive, ~~it~~ would require additional administration, and would set a dangerous² precedent.