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Television Report

Strom Thurmond

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MR. COAR: Senator Thurmond, with Congress nearing the July 30th adjournment deadline, I imagine there is some special legislation on which you are interested in getting final action.

SEN. THURMOND: There are several bills I would especially like to see approved before adjournment. Among them is the 90 per cent parity bill now pending before the Senate Agriculture Committee. This measure would restore 90 per cent farm price supports on the basic crops for the next three years. It has already been approved by the House and has been awaiting Senate committee action for approximately two months. I have urged the committee chairman, Senator Allen Ellender, to call an early vote on the bill passed by the House. Should the bill win passage, our farmers could avert a drop in price supports below 90 per cent parity on cotton beginning January 1st.

There is another bill pending before that committee that is also of much importance to our small farmers. It would guarantee a four-acre cotton allotment to all cotton farmers by creating a national reserve of one per cent above the national quota. I had the pleasure of co-sponsoring this bill with Senators Stennis, Gore, and Eastland.

MR. COAR: Didn't you introduce a 90 per cent of parity bill restoring rigid supports on a permanent basis?

SEN. THURMOND: Yes, but the House version now is the only bill that has a chance of passage this year since it has already cleared the House. I believe all 90 per cent advocates should
now get behind this measure and press for its enactment.

MR. COAR: How about the Thurmond Resolution ordering a Tariff Commission investigation of the recent textile tariff cuts at Geneva?

SEN. THURMOND: I certainly am interested in getting this resolution passed as soon as possible. As you know, 48 Senators joined me in introducing this resolution. Counting me, the total of 49 constitutes a majority of the Senate. I am hoping for early favorable action on this measure to make adjustments in the drastic tariff cuts negotiated at Geneva. While I'm on this topic, I would like to tell our people about a tariff-cutting measure now before the Senate Finance Committee. This is the Customs Simplification bill. It would reduce tariff rates further on an average of 2½ per cent by revising customs procedures. Now, I certainly am not opposed to revising old laws, but I am against any further reductions in tariffs. I have filed my views in opposition to this feature of the bill.

MR. COAR: I am sure, Senator, that everyone on Capitol Hill knows full well your views on textile tariffs. I believe you have led both major fights for the textile workers this year. You succeeded in getting the new trade bill amended to provide protection, and now you are leading the fight to get the Geneva cuts under the old law modified or nullified. Changing the subject somewhat, what is your stand on the Reserve bill now before the Senate?

SEN. THURMOND: I am strongly urging passage of this important legislation. As a reserve officer for about 27 years, I feel
that a strong, well-trained reserve force is vitally needed for the defense of our country. We must place the security of our nation above personal considerations. I told the Senate Armed Services Committee this week that the Administration's Reserve bill is a practicable, workable bill that should produce effective results.

In closing I would like to mention the $38 million in construction authorizations that have been voted for 12 South Carolina military installations. Included among them is $5 million for construction of a new permanent-type hospital at Fort Jackson; $4 million for work at Charleston Air Base; $2½ million for Donaldson Air Base; $7 million for Shaw Air Base; $6½ million for the Beaufort Air Station; and $6 million for Myrtle Beach Air Base.

In addition, the Congress has approved approximately $4 million in appropriations for work on Hartwell Dam, the Port Royal Harbor, and Charleston Harbor.

THE END