

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S COTTON EXPORT POLICY ANNOUNCED TODAY, AUGUST 13, 1955

The Administration's decision to sell one million bales of surplus low quality cotton at competitive prices on the world market after January 1, 1956 is a step in the right direction, but this new program is far from being adequate. I was pleased to learn that the Agriculture Department--in accordance with assurances I had received--does not plan to sell this cotton during the domestic marketing season, but rather, only at times and in quantities which would avoid interference with the regular marketing programs in this country.

The action of the Administration in refusing to impose import quotas on foreign-manufactured textiles is most regrettable. According to information I have received, the State Department is responsible for blocking the overall coordinated plan to sell more surplus cotton and impose import quotas. If this be true, then the State Department is guilty of satisfying the whims and fancies of foreign cotton producers and manufacturers to the detriment of the American cotton farmers and textile workers.

S. 2702, a bill introduced at the close of the 1st Session of the 84th Congress by me on behalf of myself, Senator Eastland, and 60 colleagues, now appears to be the only hope for solving the problems confronting our cotton farmers and textile workers. It is designed to encourage the sale of surplus cotton stocks, and at the same time, impose quotas on the volume of foreign-manufactured textiles coming into our country. I hope this bill will receive early and favorable consideration by the Congress when it reconvenes in January.