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STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PEACH COUNCIL  
REGARDING CONFERENCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS  
ON PEACH CROP INSURANCE IN WASHINGTON, OCT. 17, 1955

The Committee was accompanied to Washington by Mr. E. H. Agnew, President of the South Carolina Farm Bureau and was joined in Washington by Senator Thurmond.

Attending an all-day conference at the Department of Agriculture with Mr. Caharles S. Laidlaw, Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, were: Mr. Roy J. Ferree, Clemson; Mr. E. H. Agnew, Starr, S. C.; Hon. Tracy J. Gaines, Inman, S.C.; Mr. Mark T. Boatwright, Johnston, S.C.; Mr. Ben E. Gramling, Gramling, S. C.; and Mr. Earle R. Taylor, Gree, S. C.

The Committee was highly pleased that Sen. Thurmond devoted an entire day with them and rendered very valuable service in helping the Committee make the progress that was made today. Sen. Thurmond made a special trip from South Carolina back to Washington for this conference. The committee also stated that South Carolina's other members of the Congress have indicated they will give their support to the Peach Council in its efforts to secure approval of the insurance program.

The Committee, along with Mr. Agnew, and Senator Thurmond spent an entire day in conference with Mr. Laidlaw and his staff. Mr. Ed Durham, Manager of the South Carolina Branch of the Crop Insurance Corporation was also present at the meeting. The Committee was highly pleased with the reception that they received and also with the progress they was made. They feel that the chances are very good that S. C. peach growers will be offered a state crop insurance program. This insurance will probably not be available until 1957 as it will take some time to perfect a policy and contract that will be satisfactory to all parties concerned. Mr. Laidlaw agreed that his agency would start working toward formulation of a program immediately.

The S. C. Peach Council is a state organization open to all peach growers in S. C. and is composed of all segments of the S.C. peach industry covering the entire state. The functions do not include marketing and its main function is for the protection and promotion of the entire peach industry and growers that belong to all marketing organizations. The Committee will have further conferences in Washington and in S. C. towards the perfections of the program, and they were assured by Mr. Laidlaw that a representative of Federal Crop Insurance would attend the annual meeting of the S. C. Peach Council to be held at the Clemson House, Clemson, South Carolina, on January 24, 25.

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