

Statement by Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC), October 21, 1955, regarding cotton situation in South Carolina. 46-13

Senator Strom Thurmond today urged that all cotton farmers in South Carolina have their cotton classed before selling it so as to be sure they receive full value for the grade produced.

The Senator pointed out that it has been called to his attention that some farmers are selling without having their cotton classed and, as a result, are not receiving the prices at which the cotton could be placed under government loan.

Upon inquiry of the Senator, Ralph H. Raper, Deputy Director of the Cotton Division, Commodity Stabilization Service, reported that through October 20 116,000 bales of cotton have been classed in South Carolina and that only 583 were classed below grade. Mr. Raper stated that this 116,000 bales represented about 30 per cent of the cotton that has been ginned in the State;

"We have every reason to think the percentage of cotton which would have classed eligible for the government loan would have been the same had all the cotton ginned been graded," Mr. Raper said. He said that reports now indicate that 60 per cent of the cotton being ginned is now being classed -- double the percentage upon which the report through October 20th was based.

Mr. Raper also pointed out that of the 282 gins in South Carolina approved to class cotton under the Smith-Doxey Act that below grade cotton has come from only 39 of the gins, which indicates a concentration of the below grade cotton.