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Suspension of Japanese cotton goods exports

Strom Thurmond

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 28--Senator Thurmond today declared that
the temporary suspension of Japanese exports of cotton goods to the
United States will "in no way influence my efforts to secure quick
passage of Senate Bill 2702 when Congress reconvenes."

Several inquiries have been received by Senator Thurmond
regarding the status of the bill since the action of the Japanese
last week in voluntarily placing a temporary ban on the export of
cotton goods to the United States.

The bill introduced by Senators Thurmond and Eastland,
with 60 co-sponsors, would provide for the fixing of import quotas on
cotton goods at not more than 50 per cent more than the average of
the same imports from the same countries during any consecutive two
years designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The bill would also
provide for the orderly sale overseas of surplus cotton held by the
Commodity Credit Corporation in an effort to regain the traditional
markets of the United States for cotton.

"The action taken by the Japanese will in no way
influence my efforts to secure quick passage of this bill when Congress
reconvenes. American industry and its employees cannot depend upon
the actions of a foreign country to protect the interests of our
domestic economy.

"Rather than influencing me, I am inclined to believe that
the bill which I am sponsoring to protect our textile employees and the
industry has caused the Japanese to take this action of suspending
exports at this time.

"I shall continue, as in the past, to exert every effort
to protect our textile people. In 1954 the Japanese exported 11,000 yards of velveteens to the United States. In the first seven months of 1955, they exported 1,700,000 yards of the same material to this country. Many other items have been coming in at similarly high rates of interest increase.

"All of this is sufficient evidence to me that the bill which I introduced should be approved without regard to voluntary actions taken by the Japanese government.

-end-