

55-13

STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON FREIGHT RATES, Feb. 8, 1956.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today voiced his opposition to the proposed seven per cent freight rate increase being requested by the nation's railroads in a letter to Chairman Anthony F. Arpaia of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The South Carolina Democrat emphasized to Chairman Arpaia the effect such an increase would have on the price of commodities the farmers have to buy. He asked the Commission to give serious consideration to the impact such a sweeping increase would have on the depressed areas of our economy such as farm income.

The ICC is now studying the request and will ^{hear}~~hold~~ oral arguments on the petition on February 20, 1956.

While he was Governor of South Carolina, Senator Thurmond served as chairman of a Southern Governors Conference Committee which succeeded in its efforts to gain equal freight rates for Southern States.

-end-