

My fellow South Carolinians:

By a surprising vote of 54 to 41, the Senate voted Thursday against restoring 90 per cent of parity on the basic farm crops. Last year the House passed 90 per cent of parity. This means the bill will have to go to a free conference committee, where there is a possibility the 90 per cent provision may be restored.

As a strong advocate of 90 per cent of parity, I was very disappointed that the 90 per cent provision was knocked out of the ~~Senate~~ farm bill. The amendment which struck out the 90 per cent provision and provided for a continuation of flexible supports was offered by Senator Anderson, a Democrat from New Mexico. It was supported by members of both major political parties.

On the night before the voting started, I made a speech on the Senate floor in which I vigorously advocated passage of 90 per cent of parity and most of the main provisions of the farm bill. In the speech, I told the Senate that the Agriculture Department's announcement this week that farm income dropped another 1 billion, 14 million dollars in 1955 placed an exclamation mark on the necessity for passage of the farm bill, and especially the 90 per cent of parity provision. I stated that prosperity is by-passing the farmer as he swings precariously between the fearful depths of higher costs and lower income. I told the Senate further that any problem of the farmer is a problem of all the people of this nation. Proof that action is vital to the well-being of the farmer and the nation is contained in a further statement of the Department of Agriculture. This statement is that non-farm per capita income climbed 5 per cent last year, but farm per

capita income dropped 6 per cent. Average per capita farm income ~~last~~ last year amounted to only \$860. Non-farm income averaged \$1,922 during the same period.

I commended the Agriculture Committee for including provisions in the bill for 90 per cent of parity, establishment of a voluntary soil bank program, a conservation reserve, the dual parity, an acreage protection program for small cotton farmers, and increased sales of surplus cotton on the world market.

In addition, I urged passage of an amendment I am co-sponsoring which would prohibit further cotton acreage reductions in 1957 and 1958. I warned that acreage cuts are driving thousands of farmers off the farms and thousands more into marginal operations.

In concluding my remarks I made the following statement:

" Mr. President, the farm family was a basic unit in the development of our great country. I believe it will be just as basic in the preservation of the American way of life as it was in the establishment of the nation. Strong moral, spiritual and physical qualities--so essential to a great nation--are learned early in the farm family. I hope the Senate will take such action on this bill now before us which will preserve this vital element in American life. I plan to support most of the provisions of S. 3183 and I believe it to be in the best interests of the nation that the bill be enacted into law with minor alterations."

Following my remarks I inserted in the Record a resolution passed by the Orangeburg County Farm Bureau calling for a return to 90 per cent of parity.

~~In my radio report, I announced that I had submitted my~~

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In my last radio report, I announced that I had submitted my resignation from the Senate to Governor Timmerman in accordance with my 1954 campaign pledge to the people. Since that time, the Governor has appointed the Honorable Thomas A. Wofford of Greenville to serve from April 5 until the General Election in November. As soon as I learned of the appointment on Monday evening, I sent a wire to Mr. Wofford congratulating him on his appointment and offering my cooperation in every possible way.

On Tuesday I informed the members of the Senate of my resignation. I made this statement to them:

"Although the press has published my reasons for taking this action, I believe it appropriate that I should present this explanation to my distinguished colleagues. Many courtesies and kindnesses have been extended to me by the members of this great deliberative body. I deeply appreciate the friendship of the members of the Senate, and I hope to renew my membership in this body if it is the will of the people of South Carolina that I shall do so."

That's all the time for this week. I hope you will tune in next week for my next report to the people. Thank you.

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