

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FEBRUARY 1, 1956 ON
BILL PROPOSED TO FURTHER REDUCE TOBACCO ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS.

I am opposed to the bill introduced by Congressman Cooley of North Carolina and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture for the calling of a referendum among tobacco farmers in an effort to cut acreage allotments which were announced last July.

The tobacco growers have made their arrangements for the present crop year based on the allotments announced 6 months ago. Their share crop agreements have been made, their leases signed, their tobacco beds planted, and in many cases they have contracted for their fertilizer.

Although I am told by tobacco experts that further acreage reductions will be necessary next year, I do not believe it would be fair at this late date to expect farmers to accept a second reduction for this year.

The Cooley Bill would require tobacco growers to vote on whether to accept a 20 per cent reduction below last year and have their crops protected by government support ~~prices~~ prices or whether they would ~~lose~~ lose the protection of price supports. That proposal is entirely unfair because, having been subjected to one acreage reduction for this year already, the farmers should not be placed in the position of accepting another reduction or losing the protection of price supports.

I am opposed to this bill and I shall vote against it if it should come up in the Senate for a vote.

COLEY