WASHINGTON--Senator Strom Thurmond announced today that farmers in the Long Cane Division of Sumter National Forest in South Carolina will be permitted in hardship cases to continue to plant cotton on rented federal land whether they live on the land and whether or not farming is their only source of income.

The National Forest Service advised the Senator of this new ruling today. Previously, the Forest Service had issued a regulation restricting the planting of price-supported crops on federal land to persons living on the land or depending entirely on farming for their income. Counties affected are Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda.

When Senator Thurmond was informed of the original order, he appealed to the Forest Service, which is a division of the Department of Agriculture.

In a letter received from the Acting Regional Forester M. R. Scott of Atlanta, Senator Thurmond was advised:

"Forest Supervisor Riebold has reviewed the circumstances of permittees and has written or will write to those permittees on whom the restrictions work a hardship giving them authorization to continue raising the crops in question during and after 1957. We hope this will avert any hardship and relieve the anxiety that these permittees are experiencing."

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