

NEWS STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SECRETARY
BENSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REDUCTION IN COTTON SUPPORT PRICES,
FEBRUARY 9, 1957.

Last week I wired Secretary Benson and urged him not to reduce the support price for cotton but to increase it. I regret that he has now authorized a reduction in the support level from $82\frac{1}{2}$ percent to 77 percent of parity.

I am wiring him again today urging that he reconsider this action since it is of such vital importance to the continuing welfare of our farmers. This reduction makes clear the great need for fixed price support levels on the basic farm crops.

I shall reintroduce a bill early next week to fix supports rather than to leave that important matter to the discretion of the Secretary.

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