

(62-16)

NEWS STATEMENT FROM OFFICE OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC),
MARCH 7, 1957

WASHINGTON--Senator Strom Thurmond has joined Senator Stennis of Mississippi as co-sponsor of a bill to give the farmer greater protection than he now has under definitions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (*minimum wage law*).

Since World War II, farm costs have risen 14 per cent; farm prices have dropped 6 per cent; and net income for farm operators is down 15 per cent.

On an average, farm prices have risen only 80 per cent as much as farm costs have risen.

Interpretation ^{*by the Supreme Court*} and application of the law to farm activities by the Secretary of Labor have worked hardships on the farmers.

The bill redefines "agriculture," "the area of production," and the term "first processing" as applied to agricultural commodities.

Under the new definitions, farmers employing workers in the area of production for first processing of commodities would be exempt from the minimum wage law. The definitions bring up to date terms of the law which was enacted in 1938.

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