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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A bill to make unlawful the collection of fees by labor unions for the unloading of truck cargo has been introduced by Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC).

The proposed legislation is aimed at halting a practice of Teamsters Union locals in a number of cities, principally in the Middle Atlantic States, where a concentration of loads of farm produce is received.

According to testimony presented to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee on May 12, the fee varies from city to city. It is \$18.40 per truck in Philadelphia and usually \$19.68 in New York City. While imposed on the individual truck driver, the impact of the fee falls on the shipper, the farmer and eventually the consumer, in the form of higher prices for farm produce.

"This unloading fee," Thurmond said, "is an unnecessary cost in the process of getting farm goods to the consumer's table. In cities where the charge is not made, the driver ordinarily unloads the truck himself. This practice makes it necessary for the driver to stand by while the truck is unloaded for him. Because the driver has no option to forego this alleged service, corrective legislation is necessary."

The bill (S. 3922) has been referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

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