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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The following is the text of a telegram sent today by Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-SC) to the Secretary of Agriculture:

Hon. Ezra Taft Benson
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington 25, D.C.

I am deeply disturbed by your statement at your news conference today to the effect that the Department of Agriculture is contemplating a 22 per cent reduction in cotton acreage.

I urge you not to put such an order into effect. Such a large reduction in cotton acreage would serve to drive people off the farms and complicate the problem of unemployment. I am informed by representatives of the textile industry that more cotton acreage is needed to meet the anticipated demand of the mills. I see no reason why cotton acreage should be reduced at this time.

I feel confident that a more thorough study by the Department of Agriculture will bear out my conviction that a reduction in cotton acreage would be unwise at this time. Please keep me fully informed concerning this matter.

Strom Thurmond
United States Senator,
South Carolina