STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) RE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING OF SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, MARCH 29, 1958.

I am pleased that the President has signed the Second Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which includes an appropriation of $250,000,000 for additional Soil Bank payments for the 1958 crop year.

This appropriation was necessary in order that the Federal government could meet the moral obligation it had incurred to the farmers of the United States. The Department of Agriculture had offered the Soil Bank plan to all farmers, and it had indicated that the program would be available, in full, to all applicants.

The Department grossly underestimated the number of cotton farmers in the Southeast who would want to put acreage in the Soil Bank. Within four days after the sign-up period had begun, the cotton allotment in Southeastern States was exhausted. There was no equitable way of distributing the insufficient funds which had been appropriated.

The Congress did the only honorable thing in appropriating additional funds. I therefore worked diligently to obtain this appropriation.

I am informed by the Department of Agriculture that it is now in a position to honor all obligations to cotton and tobacco farmers. I am glad to see justice done.

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