

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, JULY 3, 1958

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The Senate will soon take up for consideration/a general farm bill which has been favorably reported/by the Senate Agriculture Committee. Two previous efforts to enact important farm legislation during this session of Congress/have been rebuffed, and this will probably be the last chance/for Congress to work out meaningful farm legislation before adjournment.

It is always difficult to write long-range farm legislation/ which will meet with general approval. Congress recognized this problem early in the current session. As a temporary measure, Congress passed a joint resolution in March, calling for a stay of any reduction in support prices or acreage allotments. I supported this legislation, feeling that it was in the best interest of farmers in South Carolina/and throughout the nation. However, the President vetoed the resolution.

The second major farm bill to be reported out of committee during this session/was an omnibus farm bill approved by the Agriculture Committee/of the House of Representatives. This bill included a new 3-year price support and acreage allotment plan/for cotton. As a part of the plan, cotton farmers would have voted in a referendum/to determine whether they preferred stringent acreage allotments, or more liberal allotments with lower price supports.

The day after this House bill was, in effect, killed, the Senate bill was favorably reported. It provides another formula



(76-17)

for determining cotton price supports/and acreage allotments. It would permit individual producers to increase acreage allotments by 40 per cent/if they would accept a price support reduction amounting to 15 per cent of parity.

It is imperative that Congress take affirmative action at this session/to restore to the American farmer/a fair opportunity to earn a living from the land. Recent government statistics show that the returns to all farm workers/for their labor and management/ reached a low of 69 cents per hour in 1957, while the average wage of industrial workers has reached \$2.07 per hour.

The problem of the farmer is nowhere more acute than it is/in the case of the small cotton farmer in South Carolina, who is caught in a squeeze/between shrinking acreage and declining income on one hand, and rising prices on the other. The acreage planted in cotton in South Carolina this year/is only 13 per cent of what it was 40 years ago.

In the long run, of course, the salvation of the cotton farmer/ depends on maintaining and expanding the market for cotton. We should expand our research programs, in order to discover more efficient production methods, both on the farm and in the mill, and to find new uses for cotton. For example, the recently-announced cotton spinning research laboratory/to be operated at Clemson College by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/should be of great help in finding the best methods/for handling and processing the various grades of cotton.

I hope, too, that the Senate Textile Subcommittee, of which



I am a member, will be able to write helpful legislation/as a result of the industry investigation it is undertaking. This study of the textile industry/will begin with hearings in Washington starting next Tuesday. Later, we plan to hold field hearings in South Carolina/and other parts of the country/where the textile industry is located.

Anything we can do to help the textile industry increase its consumption of the cotton grown by our farmers/will be a substantial contribution/to the solution of the complex farm problem. Meanwhile, there is an immediate and urgent need/for a workable program of farm price supports and acreage allotments. Congress should take action this summer.

I wish to thank this station for granting me this time each week, and thank you for listening.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.