Press releases, 1959 October 12

Strom Thurmond

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 12--Senator Strom Thurmond compiled a perfect voting record during the 1st Session of the 86th Congress which just ended, according to figures released today by the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

The South Carolina Democrat was present to vote on every one of the Senate's 216 roll call votes. He was also present to answer the roll call every time a quorum was summoned to transact business.

Since coming to the Senate in 1955, Senator Thurmond has compiled an unusual record in voting and quorum call attendance. He scored 100 per cent during one other session and just barely missed the perfect mark in two other sessions. On both occasions he was recorded as being absent on official business.

Figures are not available for 1956 because he resigned in April of that year to keep his promise to the people to throw the office into a primary race. He was reelected without opposition and returned to his duties in November, 1956.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12--Senator Strom Thurmond has expressed his personal thanks to Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson and Small Business Administrator Wendell Barnes for moving quickly to make emergency assistance available to many hurricane-stricken South Carolina farmers, businessmen, and homeowners.

Benson has declared farmers in 14 counties eligible for emergency Farmers Home Administration property loans. They are Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Richland.

Earlier Barnes declared the following 11 counties eligible for emergency SBA loans: Charleston, Bamberg, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg, Richland, and Berkeley.

In addition, Barnes set up a temporary field office in Charleston and Beaufort, to assist the SBA's Columbia office in processing SBA loans. Under the SBA program all hurricane-damaged property owners except farmers who have their own FHA program, may apply for three per cent 20-year loans. The FHA loans also carry a three per cent interest rate and may run for as long as 33 years.

The SBA and Agriculture Department assistance was requested by Governor Hollings, Senator Thurmond, and other S. C. delegation members.