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Conference telephone call by Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC), Wednesday, 1959 February 25

Strom Thurmond

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CONFERENCE TELEPHONE CALL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1959, BY
SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC).

The Senate Agriculture Committee conducted hearings today on various proposals which would permit farmers to rent cotton acreage allotments within their counties. As a co-sponsor of one of these proposals, I appeared and urged the committee to expedite its approval.

Under our proposal, the farmer with a small allotment who deemed it unprofitable to farm could obtain other employment and supplement his income by realizing rental income from his allotted acres. A neighboring farmer who wanted to farm his allotment could rent his neighbor's allotment and others in order to obtain sufficient acreage to conduct an efficient and profitable farming operation.

I told the Committee our farmers have been penalized too long for being efficient. One farm worker can produce food and fiber for twice as many people today as he could in 1940; yet, the farmer, rather than reaping rewards for this efficiency, finds himself the victim of inflation and government controls. I feel that the passage of this legislation will provide the opportunity for all our small cotton farmers to make a better livelihood.