

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON COTTON ACREAGE RENTAL BILL, S. 1455, ON SENATE FLOOR, APRIL 15, 1959.

MR. PRESIDENT:

We are all aware that farm productivity has increased materially in recent years/as a result of the application of new and improved farm methods and machinery. The application of these new methods and machinery/make it economically impractical and inefficient/to operate a farm below a minimum acreage, the exact size of the minimum acreage being dependent on the crop and the soil fertility. Yet many of our small cotton farmers are now being allotted less than ten acres, and in some cases, two, three, or even one acre. Such a program is responsible/for the creation of what some mistakenly refer to as the "marginal farmer." In reality, they are referring to the farmer who is forced to undertake an economically infeasible farming operation, and to depend on government subsidy to remedy his assured loss. He has no choice. He is trained and experienced as a farmer, and his worldly goods are invested in a farm. On his training, experience, and investment/depend his and his family's livelihood, be it ever so meager.

S. 1455 would allow a farmer with less than a 10-acre allotment/to rent his acreage allotment to a neighbor. This is certainly a step/in the direction of remedying this tragic situation. Under the provisions of this bill, a farmer with a small allotment/could realize some income from the rental of his allotment, and at the same time, he could have his time

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free to supplement his rental income. His neighbor, now in the same tragic circumstances, could, under the terms of the bill, by renting other allotments, obtain sufficient acreage on which to conduct an efficient and profitable farming operation.

Since rentals are restricted by the bill to County units, in any one of which soil productivity is relatively equivalent, there will be little, if any, addition to the surplus of the crop. At the same time, this bill marks a slackening of pace in forcing inefficiency/and ultimate extinction/on the small farmer, while increasing his chances for averting abject poverty. Although the bill will certainly not solve all of his problems, it will be of immeasurable benefit to small cotton farmers. As one of the original co-sponsors, I am proud of the opportunity/ to support this legislation.