We have called this meeting to explore the possibilities of what we can do to get higher prices for cotton seed for the farmers of South Carolina.

During our lifetime we have seen the cotton seed industry grow into an important economic factor in our State. Not so long ago cotton seed was used mainly to grow more cotton. Great quantities of surplus were just discarded. There was no employment for it.

Now cotton seed is vitally important in the national and international economy. It is used in the production of many articles, and it can be used for many more. One of the most important at this time is the production of fats, oils, and margarine. We all know that the entire world is suffering from an acute shortage of fats.

Let me mention briefly some of the other uses for which cotton seed is used. These are for animal feeds, for fertilizer, plastics, soaps and cosmetics, coated fabrics such as linooleum and artificial leathers, munitions, paint, medicines. Currently we may be sure that research chemists are working on many new uses.

From the beginning of the ginning season in 1946 until the first of this year South Carolina seed sellers grossed about $19,000,000.

Now I am informed that the cotton seed sellers of Georgia have been getting an average of $75 a ton. Why they get more than we do is something we must determine. If our seed, due to methods of ginning or other reasons, is inferior to Georgia's, we must take steps to correct the situation. I do not think, however, that this can be true. If they have a better marketing system, we must revise ours.

At this meeting I want all interested parties to speak out in full, so that we may determine what action we must take. As a farmer and as Governor of South Carolina myself, you may be assured that I will do everything in my power to get better prices for cotton seed in South Carolina.