

My fellow South Carolinians:

The Senate began debate this week on the new farm bill / which is designed to alleviate our farm problems and raise farm income. Last week, I discussed with you the principal features of the bill, which include a return to 90 per cent parity, a soil bank, creation of a dual parity, a broad reforestation program, an orderly disposal of surplus cotton through foreign sales, an increase in dairy price supports, and the creation of an acreage protection program for small cotton farmers.

The most controversial item in the bill / is the provision restoring 90 per cent of parity on the basic commodities. This is not the only feature of the bill, however, which will be debated on the Senate floor. A number of amendments have already been introduced which would change various provisions in the bill.

It is expected that voting on the bill will begin around the middle of the week, with final action scheduled for late in the week. Most observers expect the bill to be passed / and that 90 per cent of parity will be retained in the bill by a narrow margin.

The farmers of South Carolina can be assured of my full support / of 90 per cent of parity. Last year I introduced a bill in the Senate / for the purpose of restoring this support level on a permanent basis. I believe our farmers are entitled to full parity in the market places / and that the Government should be able to guarantee

our farmers at least 90 per cent of parity/through the government loan program.

The Secretary of Agriculture and some Democrats and Republicans on the Agriculture Committees/argue that high price supports will create bigger surpluses, while lower price supports will make surpluses disappear. I submit, however, that this argument is not valid. The flexible support advocates/overlook the fact that the basic commodities/are under strict acreage controls and marketing allotments. As to the allotted acres that are made available to a farmer for planting, the level of price supports will not affect in the least the quantities of cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn, rice, and peanuts/that are produced from those allotted acres. Facts and figures on record in the Agriculture Department/prove conclusively/that lower price supports/do not bring about a reduction in the number of bales of cotton or bushels of wheat/that will be produced from allotted acres. These facts and figures also prove that high price supports/will not increase the total production from allotted acres.

S South Carolina farmers in the Piedmont area/will be glad to know that the entire state/is now eligible for emergency loans through the Farmers Home Administration/for this year. In accordance with my request of last week, the Agriculture Department this week added the 26 remaining counties/to the list of 20 low-state counties/recently approved for disaster loans.

S By a vote of 79-1, the Senate has voted authorization for a broad investigation of lobbying activities/in both the legislative and executive branches of government. Last week I announced my intention to support such an investigation/

because I feel the people have a right to know all the facts / concerning lobbying activities. The investigation will be conducted by an eight-man committee of Senators.

S On George Washington's birthday, the members of the Senate gathered to hear Washington's Farewell Address to Congress/read in accordance with an annual custom. As one who believes in adherence to strong constitutional government, I was once again impressed by the following passage from this monumental message:

"The Constitution which at any time exists/till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people/is sacredly obligatory upon all. * * * But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this in one instance may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

Coming from the Father of our Country, this is sound advice which our Supreme Court could well have considered/when it usurped the rights of Congress, the States, and even the people/in handing down its illegal anti-segregation decision.

S I hope you will tune in again for my next report from Washington.

Thank you.