

1961

Bolivar County resolution

Bolivar County Farm Bureau

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RESOLUTION OF BOLIVAR COUNTY FARM BUREAU COMMENDING

MR. BOSWELL STEVENS, PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

In 1959 while Boswell Stevens was serving as President of the National Cotton Council, he was particularly conscious of cotton's battle for existence. While making many meetings throughout the Cotton Belt, he was constantly asking himself and other cotton producers many questions about cotton's future.

It was early in 1960 while Mr. Stevens was Chairman of the Board of the National Cotton Council when a special meeting was called in Dallas, Texas of the producer interest to discuss some basic questions about the future of cotton.

The "sixty-four dollar" question was, "What can we, as producers, do about the obstacles that lie between us and the bigger markets and profits we need?" Mr. Stevens conceived the idea of a voluntary plan, whereby, the cotton producers would contribute to a producer-controlled organization designed to provide more funds for cotton promotion and research.

Following many conferences and a number of hard-fought battles, Mr. Stevens sold the Producer Interest Committee and the Board of Directors of the National Cotton Council on the idea of the "Cotton Producers Institute" plan, whereby, all cotton growers would be asked to pay \$1.00 per bale for research and promotional projects, utilizing the concept, framework and staff of the National Cotton Council in cooperation with state and local participating groups.

In Memphis, Tennessee, at the Council's 23rd Annual Meeting, January, 1961, Boswell Stevens, Chairman of a special producer committee, revealed the "New Research-Promotional Plan". The plan called for funds for the Cotton Producers Institute of the National Cotton Council to be earmarked only for research and promotion on a grant, contract or cooperative basis and projects would be designed by producers.

The Cotton Producers Institute is the realization of a long and well thought out plan to help cotton growers meet the competition and challenge in the years ahead.

Today, we can see much progress made through the Cotton Producers Institute and the National Cotton Council. It is only due to the most sincere interest that an individual could work as diligently as Mr. Stevens did to coordinate the efforts of the cotton growers throughout the Cotton Belt.

The Bolivar County Farm Bureau wishes to commend Boswell Stevens, affectionately known to many of us as "Bos", for his outstanding leadership, ability and untiring efforts in the development of the organization known as the Cotton Producers Institute. It was no easy task because there were many areas of disagreement among the members of the special committee of which Bos Stevens was Chairman.

Mr. Stevens' interest in cotton goes back for a number of years since he was consulted many times by our mutual friend, the late Oscar Johnston, founder of the National Cotton Council of America.

It is with grateful hearts and deep appreciation that the Bolivar County Farm Bureau commends Boswell Stevens for his immeasurable contribution to the producer-financed program, the Cotton Producers Institute.