

2-11-1954

Letters between Boswell Stevens and John C. Stennis, February 11, 1954

John Cornelius Stennis

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February 11, 1934

Hon. John C. Stennis
U. S. Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your letter of February 2nd in regard to permanent cotton legislation.

I agree with you that we should enact permanent legislation in regard to cotton. I think some of the amendments passed at the last legislation should be of a permanent nature. Frankly, the first should permit individual farmers who can not or do not care to plant their acreage allocated return the same in writing to the county committee and his acreage should be considered as planted. I believe that there should be a limit to this operation, however. If an individual farmer does not plant his acreage in, say, two years he should no longer be considered a cotton farmer, and if he desired to plant cotton at some future time, he would have to take his position along with new farmers.

I think a further amendment of permanent legislation should be that the five-acre farmers should be taken care of from the national allotment preferably, if not, certainly from the state allotment.

I think the 65-40-40 provision in the most recent legislation in regard to cotton should be maintained as permanent legislation.

I feel that one of the greatest problems we have in the allocation of acres is that at the present time history determines the state's share of the national allotment, history determines the county's share of the state allotment, but at this point history ceases to be the main factor involved as a cropland factor takes over. I believe this to be unfair, and individual farmer's history should be the chief factor in allocating cotton to the individual farm.

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I am not positive that under the present circumstances, with a huge surplus of cotton, that amendments would be necessary not to permit so drastic a cut in acreage as we have under the present legislation. It is my feeling that maybe there should be a limit to the amount of reduction, as we saw in 1954 when our acreage was reduced from approximately 26,000,000 to 17,900,000. The cut was entirely too drastic and was such a shock to our economy that it was necessary to go to Congress to correct this inequity. I think it would take quite a bit of study to determine a percentage figure if the reduction should not be made below.

I shall be very happy to discuss this in person with you next week when I am in Washington.

Thanking you for your interest and cooperation in this matter, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Dwight Stevens
President

RGsh

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

February 2, 1954

Honorable Boswell Stevens
President
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Boswell:

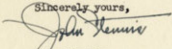
I know you share with me the feeling that we were fortunate to get such early and favorable action on the Cotton-Acreage Law. However, in order that we may not be faced with the same situation in future years, I propose to begin now to get a permanent Cotton-Acreage Law enacted. That will avoid such situations as the one we faced this year.

In view of this fact, I would appreciate very much your writing me just what additional permanent legislation is needed in order for us to have a sound and workable Cotton-Acreage Law.

Having the benefit of your opinion in this matter would be very helpful to me and I will greatly appreciate your taking the time to give me your opinion in regard to this matter.

Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future, I am

Sincerely yours,



John Stennis
United States Senate