

Information Letter No. 2

CORR/Research ** 2209 Dryades Street, New Orleans, La., ** 523-7204 ** November 20, 1964

SPECIAL NOTICE TO WORKERS IN COTTON AREAS

On December 15, 1964, cotton farmers in Louisiana will vote in the cotton referendum. This is explained on page 21 of the handbook, ACREAGE ALLOTMENT PROGRAMS.

The referendum this year presents these alternatives to voters: If marketing quotas are approved, marketing penalties will apply to any excess cotton of growers who exceed their farm's effective allotments, price support (at a level within 65 to 90 percent of parity) will be available to growers who do not exceed their effective allotments, and additional price-support payments will be made to growers who voluntarily reduce their cotton acreage to the farm's domestic allotment. (In general, the farm marketing quota - which a farmer may market free of penalty -- is the production from the farm's effective acreage allotment.)

If quotas are not approved, the regular allotment program will remain in effect, and price support at 50 percent of parity will be available to growers who do not exceed their effective allotments. Without quotas, the domestic allotment program providing additional price-support payments would not be in effect. Marketing quotas for the 1964 crop upland cotton were approved by 94 percent of the growers voting in a referendum in December, 1963.

ALL COTTON FARMERS SHOULD RECEIVE THEIR 1965 COTTON ALLOTMENTS IN THE MAIL BEFORE THE DECEMBER 15 REFERENDUM. IF THEY DO NOT RECEIVE THEIR NOTICES IN TIME, FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE FOR MAKING A COMPLAINT ON PAGE 21 OF THE HANDBOOK.

Find out more about this election (polling place, eligibility to vote, etc.) from your local ASCS office (listed in handbook) and encourage Negro cotton farmers to vote on December 15th. This is a good chance for them to participate in decision-making in the community.

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