

R. M. Statement

STATEMENT ON TOBACCO

January 24, 1974

North Carolina Attorney General Robert Morgan, a candidate for the United States Senate, today ~~attacked~~ ^{took to task} the Department of Agriculture for increasing flue cured tobacco allotments by 10 per cent while Congress was out of town. Morgan called for strict legislation to give Congress alone the power to make changes in the program, thus taking this power away from the Department of Agriculture.

In a statement, Morgan said: "I think the law should be changed to prohibit the Department of Agriculture from making arbitrary adjustments in a program that literally determines the way of life for thousands of North Carolinians. This is another example of Congress delegating away its lawmaking power to bureaucrats far removed from the real concerns of the people. Congress alone should have control of this program."

Noting that the comments from farmers on the allotment increase were either ignored or not read by the Department of Agriculture, the popular Tar Heel Attorney General added: "It is unrealistic to assume that a Californian (Kenneth Frick, administrator of the Agricultural and Stabilization Service) would care very much what North Carolina's farmers think.

In any case, no one man (or his subordinates) should have the power given to the Secretary of Agriculture. What happens to democratic control through the people's representatives if unelected bureaucrats can do as they please?"

Morgan said he believed the Department of Agriculture deliberately threatened tobacco growers with total elimination of the quota and acreage allotment program in December in order to set them up for the 10 per cent increase in quotas.

Morgan called upon Secretary Butz to "stop playing with people's livelihood."

Attorney General Morgan promised that, if elected to the Senate, he would give attention to the needs of North Carolina's farmers. "Somebody has to look out for our farmers up there, as the National government's priorities are changing."
