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Sunday Blue Laws

Strom Thurmond

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This measure would change long established customs in certain South Carolina areas with reference to amusements on the Sabbath without allowing the people in these areas to express themselves. Irrespective of the provision of this law, the emergency has not been declared over so any action taken on this bill would not change the situation at the present time.

There is a wide difference of opinion as to what extent communities should go in permitting Sunday amusements and recreation. In my opinion, any matter as controversial as this should be submitted to the people residing in these respective areas in a referendum to determine the extent to which they wish to go in providing amusements and recreation on the Sabbath.

Another important factor is that this measure sets-up the criteria for Sunday baseball and theatre operation based on the size of certain cities. I believe this is unsound. What is good or bad for a city of 50,000 would be good or bad for a city of 25,000 or 10,000.

If the General Assembly feels that our so-called Sunday Blue Law should be modified then I respectively submit that any such legislation should provide for a referendum in the opinion of the majority of the people of our respective cities should prevail.

Any such legislation should apply to all cities alike. We all know that some cities have more extensive city limits than others and although some of our cities in the census show a limited population they are, as a matter of reality, larger than those which show a greater population.

If a law is passed which will allow the people concerned to express themselves on this matter, I will sign it.