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Strom Thurmond reports to the people, Vol. I

Strom Thurmond

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In order to keep the people of South Carolina informed of my actions and those of my colleagues in the U. S. Senate, I will write this news column from time to time while Congress is in session. It will present brief news items and comments on major issues of the week that are of particular concern to South Carolinians.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

As a South Carolina Democrat, I voted with the Democrats in organizing the Senate and was subsequently assigned to three committees: Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Government Operations, and Public Works.

At present, the Public Works Subcommittee on Roads is holding extensive hearings on two bills that would require billions of dollars for construction of a network of superhighways across the nation. At a later date the full committee will consider a number of public works projects, including several in South Carolina.

Another important hearing is being conducted by the Government Operations Subcommittee on Reorganization. This subcommittee is making a check into our internal security program to find means of strengthening security measures against Communist infiltration and subversion. Another major item to be considered by this subcommittee later will be the recommendations on government economy and reorganization made by the Commission on Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has a number of bills under consideration pertaining to the various modes of transportation and federal communications, such as radio and television.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Since Congress convened on January 5th, I have introduced nine bills and co-sponsored eight others of local and national
interest. Among these are measures to restore permanently 90 per cent of parity for farm price supports, curb the appellate power of federal courts to hear school segregation and other local cases, place farm veterans seeking GI home loans on an equal basis with other veterans, increase rice acreage in South Carolina, and a resolution calling for world disarmament.

STAND ON TWO MAJOR ISSUES

Two important bills are currently being considered by Congress that are of much concern to South Carolinians. They are the Reciprocal Trade Agreements (trade-tariff) bill and the tax relief bill for low-income families.

Our textile employees and industry in South Carolina, the nation’s leading textile state, must be protected against low tariffs on cheap, imported textile products from foreign nations. I will appear before the Senate Finance Committee this week to urge that the bill be amended to afford the necessary protection. If this cannot be done in the committee or on the Senate floor, I shall cast my vote against the entire bill.

The compromise tax cut for the low-income families, as proposed by the Senate Democratic leadership, would accomplish two good ends—give tax relief where it is needed most and at the same time provide additional revenue from other sources to help us approach a balanced budget. I have given my support to this compromise because our people need every consideration as a result of the drought conditions and lack of full-time industrial employment that have caused economic hardships in South Carolina during the past few years.
The Tariff Fight

More South Carolinians are interested in H.R. 1—the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Bill—than any other piece of legislation likely to be considered by this session of the Congress.

Thousands—at least 6,000—textile people have written, called or wired me about this bill, asking that I work to get it amended so as to protect the jobs of the employees and the continued healthy activity of the textile industry. And that is just what I have spent the most time on this past week.

Senator Byrd and the Finance Committee of which he is chairman gave me sympathetic attention when I presented the problem to them.

A group of us Senators from the States in which textiles are produced met and agreed to work for specific amendments to H.R. 1 which we believe essential for protection against cheap textile imports for Japan where wages are one-tenth or less than the rate in our State. Also, with new machinery and greater experience, the Japanese might soon be competing in higher grade fabrics.

The experts who know most about the probable effect of H.R. 1 fear most some unpublicized provisions of the bill. They don't fear too much giving authority to the President to make up to 5 percent per year cuts in tariffs for three years.

Under present law the President has authority to make up to 50 percent reductions in the tariff rates. And right now in Geneva, Switzerland, a conference (GATT) is in progress at which a great many basic textile products are being negotiated with other countries for the purpose of reducing present tariff rates. I am seeking an amendment to prevent the possibility of any such 50 percent reduction.

A provision of H.R. 1 would exempt Japan from the limit of 15 percent reductions in the next three years and leave products
of that chief textile competitor open for up to 50 percent
tariff cuts, or possibly more. (Of course, that does not mean the
President would make such cuts.)

Still another provision which disturbs me would permit
greater than 5 percent per year cuts on items which are now being
brought into this country in "negligible" amounts. It is possible
that if the tariffs were cut by 50 percent on such items, imports
then might be so large as to destroy the sale of the same American-
made items.

So, you see, this dry subject is one of greatest importance
to the good of South Carolina and the nation. More than a
million people are employed in the American textile industry, 127,000 of them in South Carolina.

Sixty-eight percent of industrial employment in South Caro-
lna is in the textile plants of the State. These plants provide
71 percent of the industrial payroll of the State.

I hope we can secure the amendments we have agreed upon to
make this bill a protection instead of a danger to our State and
national good.

Drought and Irrigation

In a recent meeting with Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson,
I submitted a list of recommendations for improving the drought
aid program and for further developing irrigation facilities in
South Carolina and the Southeast. We also discussed the tornado
and hail storm that struck several counties in South Carolina. The
Secretary promised every possible assistance. The next day he
announced that emergency government loans will be made available
in the disaster areas.

In order to guard against any future peach crop losses as
experienced recently in South Carolina, the Agriculture Dept.
has agreed to send representatives to meet with South Carolina
peach growers in April or May to discuss the possibilities of a
government-sponsored crop insurance program.

It is my opinion the Secretary is very interested in irri-
gation facilities and watershed projects for the Southeast. He
gave particular attention to my proposal that additional soil
conservation payments be made available to individual farmers to
install irrigation facilities.

In discussing the drought aid program, he indicated there is
a possibility the program may be extended to cover hogs, poultry,
and farm workstock in future emergencies. He also gave a good
reception to proposals that requirements for Farm Home Administra-
tion loans be relaxed to make it easier for tenant farmers to
qualify for government credit.
COTTON BILL DEFEATED

During the past week, the U. S. Senate defeated an attempt to increase cotton acreage allotments by a vote of 51-39. This means that unless a similar bill can be successfully revived this session, there will be no additional acreage available to hardship cases or to small farmers with less than a four-acre quota.

I am trying to revive the issue in order that our cotton farmers may be allocated additional acres to guarantee each farmer the right to plant at least four acres. Unless this can be accomplished soon, however, it will be too late for this year.

This is how the measure was killed. Instead of basing the bill on hardship cases and a four-acre minimum allotment, an amendment was adopted providing for a 1½ per cent overall increase in acreage. Then, senators from large wheat-producing areas offered an amendment to increase acreage for wheat by the same amount.

When the final bill was brought up for a vote, it was killed because it provided for general increases for both commodities without regard to hardship cases.

IRRIGATION LOANS

In view of the recent droughts in South Carolina, more emphasis is being placed upon irrigation as a means of averting future crop disasters. Many farmers are financially unable to purchase the necessary irrigation facilities or to obtain private loans.

At present, however, the Farmers Home Administration has the authority to make government loans up to $25,000 to individuals and $250,000 to associations and groups. This is made possible by the water loan facilities loan act, passed by Congress last year.

The loans can be secured by mortgages on chattels and real estate. Terms can be arranged over a period of 20 years, based on the individual's ability to repay. Interest rates are fixed by
law at 3\% per cent to the lender and 1 per cent for insurance.

The loans can be made available for the following purposes: irrigation, pasture improvement, soil conservation, domestic water facilities, woodlots, and drainage facilities.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Seventeen South Carolina high school bands will march in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival parade Thursday night here in Washington. South Carolina also will be represented in the parade by several floats and Miss Suzanne Young of Greenwood, the South Carolina Society's Cherry Blossom princess for 1955. In last year's parade, two state bands won honors, and a float from Myrtle Beach won the grand prize for the parade.

In addition to these high school groups visiting the nation's capitol this week, many more are expected during the remaining spring months. I am glad to have them visit my office so I can arrange a tour of the Capitol and provide them with passes to watch the Senate in action.

GRITS ARE SCARCE

After three months in Washington, Jean and I have about given up hope of finding any yellow hominy grits up here. Jean spent the first few days in town searching for grits, and she finally ran across some white grits after a long search. But, yellow grits is out of the question.

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AID FOR CROP DISASTER AREAS

To help alleviate the effects of the freeze to fruit and vegetable crops in South Carolina, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has declared producers over the entire state eligible for emergency loans. But this is not enough, and I am trying to secure legislation to go further. Our farm operators and workers need additional acreage in other crops that can still be planted.

During the past week, I joined Senator Richard Russell and several other Southern Senators in co-sponsoring a bill that would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to accomplish this. It provides that no crop quota would be increased more than 500,000 acres or three per cent of the national quota as already determined for the year.

The Secretary would be authorized to increase allotments for the farm operator when he determines that the normal production from the farmer’s crops is insufficient to provide a livelihood for him and his workers. The acreage would be increased to enable the operator to produce sufficient agricultural commodities to continue farming operations.

The bill covers disasters caused by drought, flood, hail, frost, freeze, wind, insect infestation, plant disease, or other natural cause.

The additional acreage allotted under this bill would be in addition to county, state, and national allotments for the year and would not count in establishing future allotments.

Senator Russell and I have urged speedy action on the measure so it can be of some benefit to our farmers this year when it is most needed.
YELLOW GRITS POURS IN

More than a year's supply of yellow hominy grits has been sent to Jean and me since I mentioned the scarcity here in Washington. We have so much now that we've decided to teach Washingtonians and other legislators to like them.

We're turning some of our generous supply to the Senate dining room with instructions to serve some to all Senators and visitors. Maybe yellow grits will not be so scarce in the nation's capital after this.

S. C. FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS WIN

South Carolinians participating in the Cherry Blossom Festival have walked off with top honors again this year. The Myrtle Beach float won the grand prize, Winyah High of Georgetown captured first place among bands in the parade, and Spartanburg High won third prize in band competition earlier in the day.

Pretty Young of Greenwood, our State's Cherry Blossom princess, did our State proud. She received hearty applause when she passed the reviewing stand atop the Myrtle Beach float.

It was my pleasure to call their achievements to the attention of the Senate on Friday.

In addition to these prize winners, bands from Conway, Honea Path, Bishopville, Union, Lancaster, Darlington, Hartsville, Beaufort (two), York, Lake City, Pickens, Westminster, Greenwood, and Summerville turned in outstanding performances in the Thursday night parade in the nation's capital.
During the past few weeks, you have read almost daily of various efforts to try to cause the President to reveal exactly what policy will be followed in the Pacific. This has been particularly true with regard to the islands of Matsu and Quemoy.

Some people seem to feel that President Eisenhower should spell out the plan which would be followed by the United States if the Reds should attack these islands near the Chinese mainland. The critics of the President's policy of keeping his own counsel appear to want everybody -- including Red China and Soviet Russia -- to know where and when we would fight and under what conditions. They want the lines drawn around the areas which we would protect from attack and to let our enemies know we would not protect areas outside those lines.

I recall a fairly recent example of bad results from letting everybody know what we were doing.

On January 12, 1950, President Truman's Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, made a speech in which he defined the defensive perimeter of the United States in the Pacific. He stated it ran from the Aleutians to Japan, the Ryukyu Islands and through the Philippines.

That left Korea out of the stated interests of this nation. Late in June 1950 the Reds marched into South Korea. We had withdrawn most of our forces in compliance with an agreement to let Korea look after its own affairs.
But the Reds had been fully informed of our intentions. They knew we had withdrawn our troops. They thought because of the Acheson speech that we would not fight over Korea.

Congress has voted almost unanimously to give the President the power to determine whether we should defend Matsu and Quemoy which could serve the Reds as stepping stones for an attack on Formosa. We are already committed to fight with Chiang-Kai-Shek should the Reds directly attack the Nationalist strong-hold of Formosa or the Pescadores islands.

With the experience gained from Korea, there is sound reason in the President's policy of silence as to what we would do if the Reds attacked Matsu and Quemoy.

So long as the Reds can be kept from making an attack by the policy of keeping them guessing as to what the United States would do, I am in favor of following such a policy. It would be an open invitation to the Reds to take over those islands if we told the world they were outside our perimeter of defense.

All of us must realize there is no fool proof policy against communist aggression. If the Reds believe themselves strong enough, and decide to attack regardless of our strength, we can not prevent it.

Congress has expressed confidence in the President's military knowledge and in his judgment. Every American should lend his support to the President's policy. We must remember that he is more fully informed than any other person as to the dangers and necessities of this situation.

As we stand together in war, we should stand together without political consideration in trying to prevent war by cooperating with our Chief Executive in preserving the peace and stopping aggression.
RADIO REPORT BEGINS

Next week I will begin a weekly report to the people over a number of South Carolina radio stations while Congress is in session. In the radio reports, I will discuss major issues of particular concern to South Carolina. From time to time, I plan to discuss these issues with other Senators, Congressmen, and guests. It is my hope they will be both interesting and informative to every listener. I will announce the program schedules as soon as possible.

REPORT ON S. C. DEVELOPMENTS

During the past week, there were several developments in the U. S. Senate of importance to South Carolinians.

On Wednesday, the Department of Agriculture reported it had no objections to passage of a bill introduced by Senator Johnston and me that would help re-establish our state's rice-growing industry. It would increase our acreage allotment by 500 acres, and thus prevent a shutdown of a key rice mill in lower South Carolina. I am pressing for speedy action by the Senate so the measure, if passed, can be of benefit to our rice farmers this year.

On Thursday, the department returned an unfavorable report on a bill that would grant additional basic crop acreage to our farmers who have suffered crop losses in the recent disasters. An unfavorable report, however, does not necessarily mean the bill cannot be passed, although it does dim its chances. This bill, which I co-sponsored with Senator Russell and others, is pending before the Agriculture Committee.

MORE SCHOOL LUNCH FUNDS

I joined Senators Kerr and Monroney of Oklahoma on Thursday in introducing a measure to increase funds for the school lunch program. According to a report from the Department of Agriculture, South Carolina and 17 other states will deplete their funds for this program before the end of the 1955 fiscal year, unless more money is appropriated.

Our amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill provides for an increase of $7 million. This would make it possible for the government to continue to pay five cents on every lunch in South Carolina throughout the year. It was adopted by the Senate and sent to a free conference committee for final action.

WEEK’S SENATE SPEECHES

I made two brief addresses on the Senate floor last week. In one I paid tribute to the late President Franklin Roosevelt on the 10th anniversary of his death. In the other I challenged the Hoover Commission's charge that waste is involved in the hauling of military hitchhikers on available military planes.
History has recorded the stories of but few men who accomplished so much on behalf of their fellowmen in so short a time as did President Roosevelt. When he took office millions were jobless, homeless, and hungry. His programs, which were designed to meet the need of a particular time, took Americans off their backs and put them back on their feet.

In regard to military transportation costs, I yield to no one in desiring to eliminate waste, but service morale is no waste to our government. Very few of our men in Korea and other outposts around the world can afford a round trip home when on emergency leave. Why deny them a seat on a military plane when space is available?

If we are to remain strong militarily, and save additional training costs, then we must induce more of our trained service-men to remain on active duty. Fringe benefits, such as military hitchhiking, are designed to accomplish this end.
WEEK’S MAJOR ISSUE

The major issue decided by the U.S. Senate during the past week was the question of authorizing construction of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project. The authorization was agreed to by a vote of 58-23. I voted against the measure.

The bill authorizes the construction of six major storage dams and 12 participating projects across the Colorado River. The main purpose of the storage project is to reclaim thousands of acres of western land for cotton and other farm cultivation, offering increased competition to our Southern cotton farmers at government expense.

Cost estimates range from $1.5 billion to more than $3 billion. It has been pointed out that in some instances it would cost the government as much as $1,000 per acre to reclaim some of this farm land.

Another criticism of the project came from west coast farmers who argued the project, which was not fully approved by the various government agencies charged with the responsibility of investigating the feasibility of such projects, would give additional water to one area of the country at the expense of another.

S. C. CONSTRUCTION MONEY

The Defense Department has asked Congress to appropriate $30.5 million in construction money for South Carolina military bases during the fiscal year 1956. The money will be spent on military construction projects at Charleston, Parris Island, Beaufort, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, and Sumter.

This again points up the importance of South Carolina in our nation's defense program. In proportion to its size, South Carolina probably has more defense and training installations within its borders than any state in the nation.

BILLS INTRODUCED

I offered two bills for Senate consideration last week. One would prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from raising interest rates on emergency farm loans in excess of three per cent. It was recently revealed in the press that the Department of Agriculture has hiked these rates from three to five percent.

The other bill would authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the coastal areas of South Carolina to determine possible means of preventing loss of life and property due to hurricane winds and tides. The survey would be conducted by the Army Engineers at government expense.
Legislation is generally a slow process, but when you are vitally interested in certain bills, it seems even slower than usual.

However, during the past week I have been encouraged with the action taken on at least two bills in which I believe South Carolinians have a great interest. One of these bills, H. R. 1, the Reciprocal Trade Bill, which affects the tariff on textile and other products manufactured in South Carolina, received the approval of the Senate Finance Committee.

H. R. 1, the Reciprocal Trade Bill, was reported out of the Senate Finance Committee with few amendments to the version approved by the House. There are claims on the part of some opponents of changes in the measure that it has been amended too much. But I feel differently.

Although I believe that trade between the nations of the free world should be as unrestricted as possible, I also believe that our American workers, such as the textile employees of South Carolina, deserve adequate protection against products made by low-paid workers in other countries.

Because the GATT conference, now meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, is expected to reduce tariffs to an unknown extent under the present trade agreement, I feel that the products on the list at Geneva should not be subject to further cuts under the provisions of H. R. 1.

I am happy to be able to say that the Senate Finance Committee approved the suggestions which I presented to it on behalf of myself and 16 other Senators. While we could not get absolute protection against possible cuts at
Geneva, the Finance Committee did see fit to remove the special exemption for Japan and the "negligible quantity" clause. The Committee also provided that items on the Geneva list should not be reduced again during the next three years. That is the time covered by the authority granted the President in H. R. 1.

Although there is strong opposition to these amendments to H. R. 1, it is my hope that, when finally approved, the bill will have these safeguards in it. At least, the action of the Finance Committee strengthens that objective.

The other measure to which I refer is the bill in which I joined with Senator Russell of Georgia and others in introducing for the purpose of allowing farmers to plant substitute crops when natural disasters wipe out their main crop. Of course this bill was introduced because of the destructive freeze which hit South Carolina grains, vegetables and peaches, as well as the crops of other states. I was disappointed that the Agriculture Department made a recommendation against this bill and I said so on the floor of the Senate when the bill was finally passed on April 26 by an overwhelming vote.

The Agriculture Department said the bill would be hard to administer, that it would be expensive to administer and that it would set a "dangerous precedent."

But I took the position that emergency situations require emergency measures. I believe there will be enough people already employed in the various States under the Agriculture Department to do the work of approving additional allotments of crops and that some additional expense would be justified if it served the purpose of aiding farmers who had lost their entire income because of a natural disaster such as a killing freeze.

There seems to me little argument on the side of precedent because the bill specifically applies only to emergencies and the Secretary of Agriculture would be the one with authority to decide when such an emergency existed. It is now up to the House to act on the bill and I hope that approval will be given soon.
On Friday, I appeared before a Subcommittee and urged swift passage of bills introduced by Senator Johnston and myself that would place a three per cent ceiling on disaster loans made by the government. The Agriculture Department contends it was necessary to raise these rates from three to five per cent to make the loans less attractive to large farm operators who do not need government assistance.

Under the existing law, however, only those farmers who cannot obtain private financing are eligible for government loans. If any unqualified farmers have received these low-interest loans in the past, then this is a problem to be solved by the Agriculture Department itself, and not one that our low-income farmers should be called upon to bear in the form of increased interest rates.

I am happy to report the three per cent ceiling has been approved unanimously by the subcommittee.

The House has passed a bill restoring rigid farm price supports on five basic commodities for three years. The 90 per cent support advocates in the House won on a 206-201 roll call vote.

I have introduced a similar bill in the Senate that would restore rigid supports on a permanent basis. This bill has received an adverse report from the Agriculture Department, as did the House bill. It is questionable what action the Senate will take, but it is my hope we also will be able to repeal the flexible support program.

By an overwhelming vote of 75-13, the U. S. Senate has approved a modified version of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements bill which provides safeguards for our textile industry and continued world markets for our farm surpluses. The bill passed by this wide margin because the Senate Finance Committee accepted several amendments designed to protect the welfare of our domestic industries and employees.

Among the amendments that were incorporated in the bill were three that I presented to the Finance Committee on behalf of 16 Senators and myself on March 23rd. There were further attempts to amend the bill on the Senate floor, but all efforts failed except for one minor amendment. That is the reason why we placed our amendments before the committee instead of presenting them on the Senate floor. We knew floor amendments would not receive favorable consideration. It had to be done in the committee.

I voted for final passage of the bill as amended. I feel it is a well-considered middle ground between the extremes of no tariff and of complete regulation by quotas. The amendments face another test in the Senate-House free conference committee which is scheduled to meet sometime next week. It must be remembered that all amendments were inserted by the Senate, thus the House conferees may challenge some of these in the conference.
COMMERCE COMMITTEE CHECKS VACCINE HANDLING

The recent developments relating to the Salk polio vaccine have been of great concern to every American. It appears that there has been a certain amount of confusion in regard to the handling and distribution of this new vaccine, which is designed to virtually eliminate the crippling disease of poliomyelitis as a menace to public health.

The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee has begun an investigation into government handling and distribution of the vaccine. We are making a speedy but thorough investigation of every phase of handling in the hope that we may be able to bring to light facts that will clear up the present confusion, insure the public safety, and provide for a fair distribution.

PEACH CROP INSURANCE

South Carolina peach growers and officials of the Agriculture Department's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation were meeting in Columbia this week, (Wednesday), to work out final plans for a peach crop insurance program. This is a vital need for our peach growers, especially in view of the recent freeze that caused $10 million in damages to our peach crop in South Carolina. The Agriculture Department has indicated a strong willingness to help in establishing this program. I hope an insurance program can be worked out that will adequately protect our growers against undue crop losses. Our South Carolina tobacco farmers are satisfied with a similar program. They paid in $144,000 in premiums last year and collected more than $300,000 in benefits as a result of their drought losses.

It now appears that, in spite of our efforts in the Senate, our farmers who lost their crops in the freeze will not obtain additional basic crop acreage this year. Last week the House Agriculture Committee tabled Senate bill 1628 which would provide this assistance to enable these farmers to earn a livelihood for their families and farm workers during this crop year. This bill was speedily passed by the Senate last month.

FARM LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

I have joined a group of mid-western Senators and Senators Scott (D-NC) and Eastland (D-Miss.) in introducing a bill that should help many of our disaster-stricken farmers to continue farming operations. It would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to refinance the indebtedness of thousands of our farmers who cannot obtain loans from private lending agencies.

The bill authorizes 40-year loans at a maximum interest rate of three per cent annually. It provides that the loans can be either made or insured by the government "for the purposes of refinancing, consolidating, renewing, or extending all or part of the existing debts of the applicant, whether unsecured or secured by real or personal property." The total principal indebtedness of any applicant could not exceed 90 per cent of the normal market value of his farm or his chattels.
On Wednesday, I introduced a bill that would authorize the establishment of a regional laboratory to provide for a continuing study of our water resources and soil conservation practices in the Southeast. This is a companion to a bill introduced by Congress- man Dorn of the third district.

REA WINS SENATE PRAISE

Later in the day, I joined many other Senators in paying tribute to the Rural Electrification Administration on its 20th birthday. As a member of the committee that sponsored the first REA legislation in the South Carolina General Assembly, I had high hopes for the success of this program. Today more than 88 per cent of our rural homes in South Carolina have electricity. In 1935, only three in every 100 rural homes had it. I hope the day is not far away when every farm family in South Carolina and across the nation will have both electricity and telephone service.

-30-
During the past week, the nation's capital paid high tribute to two South Carolinians who distinguished themselves in the service of their country. On Monday Army Secretary Robert Stevens presented the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Mr. and Mrs. Norvin H. Barker of Six Mile, S. C., parents of Pfc. Charles Barker, in impressive ceremonies at Fort Myer, Va. The following day, final rites were held at Arlington Memorial Cemetery in Arlington, Va., for one of the greatest soldiers and educators of our time, General Charles F. Summerall, former president of the Citadel.

Pfc. Barker, 18 years of age, sacrificed his life on the Korean battlefield in June, 1953, so his patrol could withdraw from enemy fire. General Summerall died in Washington at the age of 88 after distinguishing himself for 40 years as a brave soldier and for 22 years as the head of one of our country's greatest military institutions.

Although many remember the former Army Chief of Staff for his brilliant military career, we in South Carolina remember him more vividly for the outstanding role played by him as an educator in our state. During his 22 years service as head of The Citadel, General Summerall developed the South Carolina Military College into one of the nation's outstanding military colleges; the cadet corps grew from 600 to 1,800; and the number of buildings on the campus increased by almost a score. As a great soldier, he greatly strengthened The Citadel's military standards, and in addition he raised the scholastic standards there to a new high.

In addition to my words of praise for both of these South Carolinians, I have also had printed in the Congressional Record Pfc. Barker's citation and several editorials in tribute to Gen. Summerall.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO S.C.

The Senate has passed several bills in which a number of South Carolinians have expressed deep interest. On Tuesday we approved a House-passed measure that would repeal section 348 of the 1954 Agriculture Act. This section, called the cross compliance provision, penalized our farmers who overplanted crops under quota restrictions by withholding their soil conservation payments. As soon as it is signed into law by the President, farmers who overplanted and received prior approval from the local ACP offices to do so, will be eligible to receive their soil building payments.

On Thursday we approved a new formula for allocating REA loans. This formula gives the administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration the power to grant more loans to cooperative borrowers desiring to overhaul existing lines that are inadequate to supply the necessary power to our rural families. Under the bill, however, 25 per cent of the loans would still...
be made on the basis of unelectrified homes, which today is less than 10 per cent of the national average.

Another measure passed Thursday was a House-passed bill directing the Secretary of Defense to give state health and educational agencies the first call on donable surplus government property. I also gave this measure my full support as a co-sponsor of similar legislation in the Senate.

TEXTILE SAFEGUARDS APPROVED

Senate and House conferees on the free trade bill have approved the three amendments to the bill offered by 16 Senators and myself that would safeguard our textile employees and employers against low tariffs on imported textile products. Final congressional action on this bill is expected either this week or early next week.

GOOD NEWS FROM S. C.

The best news I received in Washington this week came from South Carolina, and it was all about the weather. I understand that South Carolina crops got a wonderful rainfall amounting to several inches in most sections. This rainfall will mean millions of dollars to our farmers and to our State's economy in general. After working for several months on drought relief measures, this is wonderful news to receive.

-30-
The major legislative action taken by the U.S. Senate during the past week was passage of the Democratic (Gore) highway bill. This measure, which provides for construction of an expanded interstate highway system over a five-year period, was adopted over a rival bill advocated by the administration. It now goes to the House for consideration by that body.

The bill was written in the Public Works Committee, of which I am a member. It authorizes $12½ billion dollars in federal expenditures for the construction program. Another $5½ billion would be added by the states to bring the total construction value to approximately $18 billion. South Carolina would receive $165 million in federal money for expansion and improvement of the interstate highway system and for other roads.

As a co-sponsor of this measure, along with Senator Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) and several others, I supported its passage. While it was being considered on the floor, I voted in favor of a few amendments. In committee, I reserved that right. In fact, I offered one amendment on the floor that was adopted unanimously. It eliminated a provision that would have given the federal government exclusive control over roadside advertising. I felt that this was a matter to be left to state control.

POSTAL PAY RAISE

Another Senate action that attracted much attention was the attempt to override the President's veto of the 8.8 percent postal pay raise. This move was defeated by a vote of 54-39, failing by several votes to receive the necessary two-thirds majority vote. I voted to override the veto.

Another pay raise proposal is currently being considered by the Congress. It is my hope it will be approved by both the Congress and the President before adjournment so our faithful postal employees can receive their first pay increase since 1951.

DISASTER BILL PASSES

Later in the week the Senate approved a bill which would place a three percent ceiling on all government disaster loans. I sponsored one of the two bills introduced on this matter, which has received unanimous approval in the legislative process thus far. The next action will be up to the House Agriculture Committee.

MORE S. C. REVENUE SOUGHT

On Friday, I introduced a bill that would secure to the states the right to collect sales taxes on purchases made by private contractors executing government contracts. This measure would provide South Carolina and 31 other states with millions of dollars in revenue.

The Supreme Court ruling in the case of Kern-Limerick, Inc., versus Scurlock appears to exempt these contractors from state taxation. It said these private contractors are agents of the Federal Government, which is immune from state taxation.
To give such sweeping immunity to this revenue source will work a tremendous hardship on states that have sales taxes. This could mean the difference to some states between operating in the black or in the red. This is another Supreme Court decision that cannot be taken lightly.

Similar legislation is being prepared for introduction in the House.
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

REPORTS

TO THE PEOPLE

Vol. I, No. 13

For Release June 8, 1955

MUTUAL SECURITY BILL PASSES

The Senate has now passed the President's request for $3.5 billion in foreign aid authorizations during the fiscal year 1956 and has sent the bill to the House for further action. The mutual security bill was approved by a vote of 59-18.

I voted for final passage, after supporting amendments that would have cut the authorizations by more than a billion dollars. In addition, I favored amendments to convert more of the economic aid grants into loans and another measure to earmark $50 million of the authorizations for distribution of American farm surpluses. Both amendments to raise the percentage of loans were defeated, but the farm surplus amendment won approval.

VOTE TO CUT ECONOMIC AID

In voting to trim foreign aid spending, I did not vote to cut any direct military assistance. I believe we must provide the necessary military arms and assistance to our allies in order to provide for the defense of America and the rest of the free world against Communist aggression during the cold war. At the same time, however, I favor lending economic aid and not giving it away. That is why I voted to trim economic development funds and to convert more of these authorizations into loans.

GEORGE, BARKLEY DEFEND BILL

Senator Walter George (D-Ga.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, warned the Senate we would weaken the President's hand at the forthcoming Big Four Conference if we crippled the aid program. Another veteran legislator, Senator Alben Barkley (D-Ken.) also stoutly defended the bill against cutbacks, arguing patience until the cold war could be ended.

Another fight is scheduled in the Senate when the foreign aid appropriations bill comes up for action. That measure will contain the funds authorized by the bill passed last Thursday.

SEGREGATION DEGREE VIEWS

The U. S. Supreme Court has handed down its long-awaited decree as to when and how to end segregation in our public schools. It has remanded the segregation cases--one involving School District 1 of Clarendon County--to the federal district courts for enforcement of its May 17, 1954 decision "as soon as practicable."

Although the decree of May 31, 1955 did concede that conditions differ in different localities in regard to the problems of integration, there is one point which South Carolinians must not forget. The court did not in any way alter its decision of May 17, 1954 in which it declared segregation unconstitutional.

COURT DISREGARDED CONSTITUTION

The court reached that decision by relying on sociologists and book-writers instead of upon the Constitution of the United States and a long series of legal precedents, going back to the Plessy versus Ferguson decision in 1896. It gave greater weight
to unauthoritative views expressed by unknown individuals than it did to the studied and time-tested decrees of a long line of distinguished men who served on the Supreme Court in years past.

We in South Carolina who believe in Constitutional principles should not be deluded into believing that the court order issued May 31 intended to modify last year's opinion. What that decree amounts to is implementation of the court's previously stated position.

DECREE WILL BE CONTESTED

However, as we consider how to meet and cope with this problem, we must not be discouraged. There can be no doubt that every effort to force upon us the decree of a court which depended on the personal views of sociologists instead of well-established Constitutional principles will be contested every step of the way. As a representative of the people of South Carolina, I shall continue to fight for Constitutional government and the rights of the States to control their own internal affairs.

ACTION REQUESTED ON COURT BILL

My bill to limit jurisdiction in school cases to federal district courts would prevent appeals to higher courts. This bill, S. 1016, is now pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In a letter to the committee chairmen, I have asked for prompt and favorable action and have offered to testify or do anything possible to expedite early action.

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The Senate acted on several measures this past week that a number of South Carolinians have expressed deep interest in—both for and against passage. On Tuesday, the housing bill was passed, and on Wednesday a bill was approved raising the minimum wage law from 75 cents to $1. Both of these important items were approved in near record time.

**VOTED AGAINST HOUSING BILL**

I voted against the housing bill. As approved, the housing bill authorizes expansion of the public housing program in 1956 by 135,000 units. This would involve the Federal Government to the extent of more than $10 billion.

I voted against this measure also because I believe private enterprise can do and is doing the housing job necessary. In addition, the Supreme Court has indicated that the separate-but-equal doctrine in regard to public education and public housing will no longer be respected. In fact, just as the bill passed the Senate, it was announced that an anti-segregation amendment was being prepared to be tacked onto the bill in the House. By distinguished predecessor, the late Senator Burnet R. Maybank, the most ardent advocate of the public housing program, reversed his position last year for this same reason.

**VOTED FOR WAGE HIKER**

I voted for the increase in the minimum wage. The minimum wage increase is justified because the cost of living index has risen by a similar proportion to the 25 cents increase since the 75 cents law was passed in 1950. The bill applies only to those persons working in occupations that affect interstate commerce, and it did not extend additional coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

**FARM VETS BILL PASSES**

On Wednesday, the Senate also approved a House-passed bill that provides veterans on an equal per with other veterans in receiving GI loans. I sponsored a similar bill in the Senate.

**RICHLAND LAND BILL APPROVED**

Later in the day, the Senate unanimously passed Congressman John Riley's bill that would reconvey to Richland County 110 acres of land on the VA hospital reservation that the VA had declared surplus. It was my pleasure to give this bill my full support and to request final Senate action.

**NEW COTTON BILL PROPOSED**

On Friday, I joined Senators Stennis and Eastland of Mississippi and Gore of Tennessee in co-sponsoring a bill that would guarantee a four-acre minimum cotton allotment to our small farmers. A similar measure I co-sponsored earlier in the year received an adverse report from the Agriculture Department, but it is expected that this one will meet with approval by both the department and Congress.
I was glad to hear President Eisenhower speak out against Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's anti-segregation amendment to the administration's reserve training bill. It is also my belief that we must build up a strong combat-ready reserve and that our national defense must not be jeopardized by playing "civil rights" politics with such important legislation. At a recent meeting at the White House with the President and leaders of the American Legion, VFW, and other veterans organizations, I urged that he take a strong stand against the Powell amendment.

I was therefore highly pleased to hear of his press conference remarks in which he vigorously denounced Powell's attempt to sidetrack the reserve bill by adding an amendment to outlaw segregation in our National Guard units. It is my hope the Senate will initiate action on the reserve bill without such an amendment so that we may soon build up a strong reserve to help preserve peace and guard against aggression.

OPEN BIG FOUR MEETINGS

In a speech before the Regional meeting of the American Bar Association at Cincinnati, Ohio, on Friday night, I urged that the Big Four meetings in July be opened to the press and all news media. Woodrow Wilson called for "open covenants, openly arrived at", in his Fourteen Points announced during World War I, and I believe that had we followed this policy in past conferences we would not have been so vulnerable to propaganda attacks from our enemies.

We cannot prevent the Soviets from breaking the agreements they make with us, but we can and must establish safeguards to make certain the world knows just what is agreed at the meeting, or why no decision is reached, if none is. Russia will know all that is said and done. If Russia dooms the conference to failure, then the whole world should have no doubt as to where the responsibility lies.
CONGRESS ADOPTS TRADE BILL AS AMENDED

The Congress has now given final approval to HR 1, better known as the Reciprocal Trade Agreements bill, as amended in the Senate. I am glad the bill has been approved because it affords a measure of protection badly needed by the cotton textile and other industries. Under the old law, this protection was lacking. In addition, it gives greater assurance that our farmers will not suffer from the loss of foreign markets which now consume much of our farm surpluses.

Passage of this bill takes from the President authority to cut tariffs already reduced by the GATT Conference at Geneva, in instances where reductions were more than 15 per cent. Under the old law and under HR 1 as originally approved by the House, there was virtually no protection against tariff reductions. Authority under the old law resulted in the recent drastic cuts in tariff rates on a number of basic textile products such as print cloths, broadcloths, poplins, oxfords, twills, etc., by as high as 27 to 48 per cent of the present tariff rate. A spokesman for the textile industry has stated that these cuts represent "more than the current profit margin of the industry from the production of standard goods."

PROTECTION AGAINST FUTURE CUTS

I am astounded that State Department negotiators would agree to such severe reductions in textile products. The possibility of just such action caused me to urge amendments to HR 1 for the purpose of providing more adequate protection against future cuts. The amendments I advocated were adopted and they do prevent any further tariff cuts for three years on the items which were cut more than 15 per cent at Geneva under the old law. It is my hope that future negotiations affecting our industries will be conducted on a more realistic basis. I reiterate that the Geneva cuts were made under the old law, thus I am very pleased that my amendments have been incorporated in the new law to provide adequate protection to our textile employees and plants.

AUSTRIAN TREATY RATIFIED

By a vote of 63-3, the Senate has ratified the Austrian Treaty. I voted for ratification. In a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, last week, however, I pointed out that our treaty with Germany was the probable cause of Russia's willingness to sign an Austrian treaty.

Previously, Russia resisted for nearly ten years all efforts of the United States and the UN to end the occupation of Austria by conclusion of a peace treaty. Again the evident purpose of her sudden agreement was to create a neutral state and prevent our making a separate treaty with Austria.
The Senate also approved the Commerce Appropriations bill this week after prolonged debate on several amendments calling for additional expenditures.

I co-sponsored one amendment which won approval. It provided for an additional $2,500,000 to equip a number of our weather stations along the coasts with modern long-range radar equipment to help track down hurricanes and tornadoes. There is a strong possibility Charleston will receive this new equipment and that the part-time weather station at Florence may be operated 24 hours a day because of this additional appropriation. In addition, new runway equipment to check cloud height and visibility may be installed at Columbia, Greenville, and Spartanburg airports.

VOTED FOR CUTS OF $53 MILLION

Although I voted to increase the bill by $2,500,000, I also voted to trim it by another $53,000,000. It is my belief that when we can spend a few million to save many millions of dollars in property damages—not to mention the loss of lives—then that is sound economy. That is why I co-sponsored the hurricane warning amendment.

However, I voted to strike $15,000,000 from the bill in increased airline subsidies and another $38,000,000 in Maritime subsidies. Both economy amendments to slash these subsidies—direct cash handouts to commercial airlines and Maritime interests—were defeated.
CAUTION URGED AT BIG FOUR TALKS

Within three weeks, President Eisenhower will sit down at the conference table with the leaders of Great Britain, France, and Russia to discuss the fate of the world. Much attention will be focused on the Big Four meeting at Geneva. Peace-loving peoples all over the world will be hoping that agreements will be reached which will pave the way for many years of world peace and prosperity.

As we await these talks, however, we must remember the fruits of past experience. We must not be lulled into a false sense of security by the release of additional American prisoners from Red China. We owe no gratitude to the Communists for this action.

SHOULD DEMAND GOOD FAITH

In view of our past experiences with Russia—in which we have seen practically every agreement broken—I hope our President demands concrete evidence of good faith at Geneva. In addition, we must not make any concessions that would violate any agreements to which we are a party. We must not consent to any agreements which have the possibility of being labeled as appeasement. We should not consider the admission of Red China to the UN. We must exercise the utmost care in dealing with the Russians on the subject of atomic energy.

Finally, it is my conviction—as I have previously stated—that we should insist that the meetings of the Big Four be open to representatives of all news media. Then the Soviet strategy of propaganda would be defeated because they would be unable to misrepresent the events of the conference if all the world knew the details. As the Big Four discuss the fate of the nations, the nations have a right to know what is said.

ANTI-SEGREGATION AMENDMENTS

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY) has vowed to tack an anti-segregation amendment onto the housing bill when it comes up on the House floor this week. As I stated at that time, this is one of the reasons I opposed this legislation in the Senate. Powell is the same legislator who has tied up the Reserve bill with an amendment that would bar segregation in National Guard Units.
The Agriculture Department has agreed to continue operating the cotton classing office at Charleston after indicating for several months that the office would be permanently closed.

S. C. DEFENSE MONEY SOUGHT

I am urging my Senate colleagues to approve a bill which contains approximately $40,000,000 in military construction authorizations for a number of our military installations in South Carolina. This measure, the Military Public Works Authorization Bill, has been approved by the House Armed Services Committee, of which Congressman Mendel Rivers is a senior member. The House is expected to act on it sometime this week.

The largest item it carries for South Carolina is a new 500-bed hospital to be constructed on a permanent basis at Fort Jackson. This authorization was added in the House committee by a one-vote margin after a successful fight by Congressmen Rivers and John Riley.

I am also urging favorable consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee of an appropriation of $250,000 or more for initial work on a dredging project for Port Royal Sound. This work was authorized in a previous Congress. Total cost would be $765,000.
CUSTOMS BILL REDUCES TARIFFS

The Senate is expected to act soon on a bill that would further reduce tariffs on imports from foreign nations in competition with our textile and other products manufactured in this country. This would be in addition to the drastic cuts negotiated under the 1951 Trade Law at the recent GATT Conference in Geneva.

The measure, called the Customs Simplification bill, would reduce tariffs on an average of 2½ per cent—as much as 15 per cent—on some items—by redefining terms previously used in import duty evaluations. For this reason, I shall vigorously oppose the bill when it comes up for Senate floor action. It has already been passed by the House.

48 JOIN TARIFF FIGHT

Forty-eight Senate colleagues have joined me in introducing a resolution that would order an investigation of the effects of the textile tariff cuts negotiated at the GATT Conference. The resolution would direct the Tariff Commission to begin a study of the drastic tariff reductions—some running as high as 27 to 48 per cent on the basic products of the textile industry—and to make a report to the President.

What we are seeking is preventive action. I do not believe we should wait until irreparable harm is done our industry before we act to provide the necessary relief. I have high hopes for passage of this resolution since a majority of the Senate has already joined in support of it as co-sponsors.

PRESIDENT CAN ADJUST RATES

By starting a study into the likely effects of these tariff reductions as soon as they go into effect—September 10—precious time can be saved. This time saved could well determine how full a schedule our mills might operate on.

As soon as the investigation is completed, the Commission must file a report with the President, who has the power to impose quotas, raise tariffs, or make any other adjustments necessary to provide adequate protection for our textile industry and its million employees.

I have notified the President of my actions, and I have asked that he also order the Tariff Commission to make this investigation.

CUTS UNDER OLD LAW

Realizing the vital importance of the textile industry to South Carolina and the nation as a whole, I am deeply concerned as to the likely effects of the Geneva negotiations. These cuts were made possible under the 1951 extension of the old trade law. I am glad that the new law as passed this year, however, does have adequate protection written into it by three amendments offered on behalf of 16 Senate colleagues and myself. These amendments make it impossible to further reduce items severely cut at Geneva.
RESERVE BILL PASSES

The House has now passed the Reserve bill without Congressman Powell's amendment which would outlaw segregation in our State National Guard units. The Powell amendment was defeated by a vote of 155-105. This amendment previously threatened to kill this vital defense need until President Eisenhower appealed to the Congress and the nation to put national defense above personal interests.

Powell is now threatening to tie up the Housing bill with an amendment that would wipe out segregation in, not only all public housing, but all private housing financed by government loans.

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Vol. I, No. 18

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

STROM THURMOND

reports

TO THE PEOPLE

Committees: Interstate & Foreign Commerce
Government Operations
Public Works

For Release July 13, 1955

ACTION URGED ON 90% PARITY BILL

A bill restoring 90 per cent of parity on the basic farm crops may have to wait another year for passage unless the Senate Agriculture Committee acts soon. The Congress is expected to meet its adjournment deadline on July 30th. At present, this vital legislation is tied up in the Senate Agriculture Committee awaiting action. The committee has voted to defer hearings on the bill, HR-12, which passed the House two months ago, until next fall. At the same time this vote was taken, however, the committee members reserved the right to vote on HR-12 at anytime. Thus, it is still possible that the committee may act on this legislation.

In view of the above facts, I have written a letter to Senator Allen Ellender (D-La.), Chairman of the Committee, urging that prompt and favorable action be taken on HR-12. Should the committee heed my request, then rigid price supports could be restored for our farmers before the next session begins and before cotton parity supports drop below 90 per cent.

INTRODUCED PARITY BILL

Early in the session, I introduced a bill calling for 90 per cent of parity on the six basic crops—cotton, tobacco, corn, wheat, rice, and peanuts—on a permanent basis. HR-12 as passed by the House would restore 90 per cent supports for a three-year period. Since this measure has already been acted upon favorably by the House and the committee has reserved the right to vote only on that bill, I believe that all 90 per cent advocates should give their full support to this legislation and urge its final passage this session.

$38 MILLION FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Members of the Senate-House Free Conference Committee on military construction authorizations have agreed on approximately $38 million in construction work at 12 South Carolina military installations during fiscal year 1956. Included in the construction bill is a five million-dollar hospital of permanent-type construction at Fort Jackson.

This authorization was placed in the bill on the House side by Congressmen John Riley and Mendel Rivers, senior members respectively on the House Appropriations and Armed Services Committees. The Senate Armed Services Committee deleted the original eight million-dollar proposal because it said the Army had not requested the funds.
I protested this cut—and another three million-dollar reduction at Charleston Air Force Base—on the Senate floor. In debating the matter on the floor, I received assurances from Senate Conference members that they would give every consideration to restoring the cuts in the conference. At the meeting the compromise figure of $5 million was agreed upon, as was the restoration of the $4.3 million for Charleston Air Force Base.

The next move now is to get the Appropriations Committees to approve the appropriation funds for 1956. I have already appeared before the Senate committee to urge favorable action. At the meeting, Army officials joined in stressing the need of the hospital facilities and the importance of Fort Jackson as one of the world’s greatest training centers.

The rest of the $38 million would be spent on construction improvements at other Charleston installations, Beaufort, Parris Island, Myrtle Beach, Greenville, and Sumter.

MORE SOUTH CAROLINA MONEY

Another free conference committee on public works appropriations has agreed on $3.7 million in appropriations for three South Carolina projects. The conferees agreed to an initial outlay of $3 million to begin construction of Hartwell Dam near Anderson, $500,000 for dredging Fort Royal Harbor, and $200,000 for work on Charleston Harbor.

OPPOSES CUSTOMS BILL

I have filed my opposition to the Customs Simplification Bill with the Senate Finance Committee. Last week I mentioned that this bill would further reduce tariffs on imports on an average of 24 per cent. The purpose of the legislation is to revise obsolete customs procedures. I am not opposed to revising obsolete laws, but I am against reducing tariff rates any further than that already provided by law.

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Nothing has given me more concern in the past year than the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the question of segregation in our public schools. That decision on May 17, 1954, foretold many years of litigation in South Carolina and other states of the South.

The implementing decree of the Supreme Court on May 31 of this year was another step in the destruction of constitutional government. The Constitution provides for the separation of the federal government into three separate branches. The meaning of the decision of last year and the implementing decree of this year is that the Judiciary -- the Supreme Court -- has usurped the authority of the Legislative branch -- the Congress of the United States.

Not only did the decisions mean usurpation of the authority of the Congress, it also meant virtual seizure of the powers granted the States under the Constitution.

Yesterday's decision by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, that the State of South Carolina does not have the power to establish laws regarding transportation of persons within State borders, was still another step in the attempts to destroy the rights guaranteed the States and individual citizens under the Constitution.

What the Courts have done was without color of law under the Constitution. Instead the decisions hinged on the testimony of sociologists and psychologists in the school segregation case. Now it is clear that lower Courts feel bound in any question involving segregation to follow the political decision of the Supreme Court in the school cases.

I was not in public office at the time of the 1954 decision, but on May 31 of this year when the implementing decree was handed down by the Supreme Court, I said publicly:

"I am opposed to the original decision and its implementation. The failure of the Court on May 17, 1954, to recognize well-established Constitutional principles and legal precedents cannot, at this time, be offset by its recognition that local conditions differ. Today's decision did not change the decision of May 17, 1954."

How little comfort was to be found in the May 31st decree is proved by the decision yesterday of the Court in Richmond going into the field of transportation -- beyond the decision on the schools.

Following the line of the Supreme Court in its decision on the schools, the Court of Appeals stated in a unanimous
decision that the "separate but equal" doctrine no longer applies to transportation within a state. Thus, the lower court, like the Supreme Court, has substituted "discrimination" for "segregation" as a definition in spite of previous decisions of the Supreme Court, beginning with the Plessy vs. Ferguson case in 1896 which declared separate but equal facilities were not discriminatory. There were many distinguished men who sat on the Supreme Court through the years from 1896 to 1954. Among them were many able jurists who maintained Constitutional government in the United States by the simple process of interpreting the Constitution and the law instead of trying to legislate new laws by the decisions they rendered.

I regret I cannot say the same about the Court today.

Even prior to the implementing decree of the Supreme Court in the school cases, I foresaw the troubles which would come to attack our way of life after the decision was rendered in 1954. On February 9 of this year, I introduced a bill in the Senate which I hope would at least give us the right to have our protests against usurpation of States Rights heard in Courts of our own State.

This bill would limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeals in cases relating to the schools. Simply, this means that instead of the complainants being permitted to appeal decisions of the Federal District Court in South Carolina, they would have to abide by the decisions rendered by the District Court in the State.

Several times I have requested action on this bill which was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee and recently I wrote the chairman urging that this bill be reported to the Senate so it could be voted on.

In Washington, there seem to be few persons who still believe that the Constitution of the United States is a living document which embodies principles as sound now as they were when the Constitution was drafted by our forefathers. Even on new appointments to the Courts, which require Senate confirmation, there is little apparent concern over whether the new members of the Courts will follow the Constitution instead of the psychology books. Legislation by Court decree could be halted or at least stemmed if enough members of the Senate held the views of South Carolinians.

I intend to exert my efforts in every direction open to me as a Senator to halt the destructive attacks on our Constitution. But without the help of others, I can only be a voice crying in the political wilderness. Bills cannot be passed without the approval of a majority of the Congress.

Every legal means at their command must be employed by South Carolinians and all Southerners in this fight to retain legal processes of government.

The State Courts must continue faithfully to interpret the laws of the States.

The State Legislatures must carefully enact laws and amend existing laws to meet the onslaughts against the rights of the States and individuals.

The Governors of the States must devote themselves to advocating and defending the rights guaranteed the States under the 10th Amendment to the Constitution. That amendment declares:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

We must all think clearly and act calmly as we devote ourselves to the preservation of the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution. I pledge my efforts to this end.

THE END
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

STROM THURMOND

reports TO THE PEOPLE

Committees: Interstate & Foreign Commerce
Government Operations
Public Works

No. 1, Vol. 20

For Release July 27, 1955

VOTES AGAINST FOREIGN AID

The Senate has approved over my objections and those of 21 of my colleagues a foreign aid appropriations bill totaling approximately $1.2 billion for fiscal year 1956. This measure will now go to a Senate-House Free Conference Committee where I hope conference members will agree on the lower House approved figure of $2.5 billion since it cannot be reduced below that amount. This conference will be interesting to watch because several House members have already stated they will not approve a penny over $2.6 billion.

In addition to voting against final passage of this huge spending program, I also voted in favor of a number of amendments offered by Senator Ellender (D-La.) designed to reduce the appropriations by 25 per cent.

MORE SPENDING FOR 1956

While I do believe that a certain amount of foreign spending is necessary to stave off Communism in friendly countries, I cannot agree to vote extra money for this purpose when this program should be tapering off. Some of these nations we have been sending aid since World War II are now on their feet economically and need little if any assistance from the United States.

With this appropriation passed by the Senate, we will have given away more than $37 billion in economic aid and more than $20 billion in military aid through fiscal year 1956. This money -- which we have had to borrow -- has been spent over 11 years through some 30 major foreign assistance programs.

BYRD MAKES STRONG POINT

In a speech on the Senate floor, Senator Harry Byrd (D-Va.), chairman of the Finance Committee, made this point: "If we did not now have this expenditure for foreign aid and if we did not have to pay the interest on the debt created by previous foreign aid expenditures, we could balance the budget and reduce taxes across the board by 5½ per cent."

It is disheartening to those of us who have been taking consolation in the thought that foreign aid spending was declining to find that this year, instead of curtailing these expenditures, the administration has requested funds to increase appropriations by approximately 10 per cent over last year.

If we are ever going to balance the budget and give the necessary tax relief at home, then I believe we must begin to curtail foreign spending at a time when most of the other nations of the world have regained their standing economically and are enjoying some degree of prosperity.

-1-
SENATE VOTES INCREASED FARM SALES

Finding more markets for our surplus farm commodities is one of my prime objectives in the Senate. Thus, I was very pleased last week when the Senate gave approval to a bill that makes it possible for the Secretary of Agriculture to sell more of our surpluses overseas.

I know of no segment of our population which receives so little for its efforts and hard work as do our farmers. By selling more of our farm surpluses to foreign nations, we can improve conditions for our farmers by enabling them to plant more basic crop acreage, to receive greater assurance of more stable government price supports, and to reap higher cash benefits from their crops.

U.S. AND S.C. MUST EXPORT

The United States is a land of vast production — both agriculturally and industrially. I am proud to state that South Carolina ranks high among the States in both agricultural and industrial production. We must therefore find more markets for our products unless we are going to continue to stockpile billions more in government surplus warehouses.

Our government now has approximately $8 billion tied up in farm surpluses. For this reason, I favor giving the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority for the purpose of developing more markets to help reduce our stockpile of surpluses.

SUPPORTS SURPLUS SALES

The bill as passed by the Senate would authorize the Secretary to accept twice as much foreign currency in payment for surplus commodities as currently authorized. This means he would be able to sell $11 billion worth of farm surpluses in exchange for foreign currency. In addition, the bill gives the Secretary more authority in determining where we can export certain commodities. These two features of the bill should open more world markets to our farmers. I was glad to give it my full support on the Senate floor.

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INTRODUCED COTTON EXPORT AND TELTILE IMPORT QUOTA LEGISLATION

On Saturday, I introduced on behalf of myself, Senator Eastland (D-Miss.), and 61 colleagues, a bill which we hope will encourage the sale of cotton for export and at the same time limit imports of manufactured cotton products coming into this country. The purpose of this legislation is to try to solve the many problems that today confront our cotton growing and textile manufacturing industries, upon which South Carolina is so dependent. It will be well for the Senate to give thorough consideration to this legislation during the fall. At that time, cotton growers, textile manufacturers, and all interested parties will be given an opportunity to present their views on this legislation, as we attempt to solve the problems of these two great industries.

The statement I made on the Senate floor upon introduction of this bill follows:

STATEMENT ON BILL

The cotton industry of the United States, from producer through manufacturer, is facing the most critical period in history. Our share of the world cotton export market has dropped from approximately 60 percent to less than 30 percent of the world total and is in danger of being lost.

Cotton acreage in this country has been reduced from 25,244,000 acres on July 1, 1953, to 17,095,100 acres on July 1, 1955. During this period that we have attempted to adjust supplies through use of domestic production controls, foreign production has expanded rapidly with a large part of this expansion being American-financed. A further increase in foreign acreage is planned for 1956.

American producers stand alone in their sacrifices to bring the world supply of cotton into balance with demand, and it has not been fully demonstrated that we cannot adjust world supplies by curtailment of acreage in the United States. Already, thousands of farm families have been seriously affected. By reasons of the drastic cut in cotton acreage in 1955 alone, according to records of the United States Department of Agriculture, 55,000 cotton farm families were put out of business and 130,000 additional farmers already making less than $1,000 per year were reduced in income by more than $100.

This deplorable situation is the direct result of our foreign agricultural policy, which has failed to take note of the fact that this problem is of a world-wide nature. The loss of our historical and necessary foreign markets promises to be permanent, and unless corrective action is taken immediately, cotton farm incomes, already among the lowest in the nation, will be pushed to new lows. In addition, the world cotton surplus is accumulating in the hands of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The present Cotton Export Advisory Committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, has by overwhelming majority strongly urged that U.S. cotton be offered for sale in world markets. The
Commodity Credit Corporation Charter specifically authorizes the sale of commodities owned by the Corporation, or acquired for export purposes, in world trade at competitive prices. Furthermore, there is ample precedent for such action in the export programs of 1939-40 and 1944-45, and the fact that Commodity Credit Corporation is selling or has sold approximately nineteen other agricultural commodities for export on a competitive price basis.

To cope with the problem of dwindling exports of U. S. cotton and to prevent further drastic cuts in U. S. cotton acreages which would be made necessary if we do not re-establish and maintain a fair share of the world fiber market for cotton, the Department of Agriculture has been attempting to develop an export sales program under which U.S. cotton may be sold competitively in the markets of the world. Any program to be effective and beneficial to farmers must augment the total available market and not merely serve to displace outlets which would otherwise be available. The position of the domestic mills as customers of the American farmer is already endangered by the foreign trade policies and actions of the U. S. Government. This grave situation in itself calls for immediate corrective action.

There has been in effect for a number of years for raw cotton, as there has been for wheat, an import quota under section 22 of the AAA to protect the higher price paid to domestic farmers. But, unlike flour, there has been no corresponding quota on cotton textiles. Therefore, if U. S. cotton is sold in the world market at prices below those paid by domestic mills, it would be certain to result in increased imports of cotton textiles not only displacing cotton which farmers would otherwise sell to domestic mills, but also destroying the ability of the domestic mills to remain in business and continue to serve as the principal outlet for U. S. cotton.

Adequate cotton acreage is essential for a healthy agricultural America, and vital to our cotton-economy mills and producers.

If farmers are to have the opportunity to maintain their fair share of the world market without destroying their market at home, it is essential that there be established coordinated program. Such a program would assure cotton sales in the world market at competitive prices and provide a textile import quota under section 22 which would permit foreign exporters of cotton textiles a fair share of the domestic market on an historical basis and at the same time prevent the excessive textile imports which would result if foreign mills were to be given lower priced cotton than American mills.

This bill directs the adoption of such an over-all coordinated program. A program of this nature is essential if we are to prevent complete disruption of the economy of the cotton producing and manufacturing areas.
Last Saturday night I had the pleasure of addressing the annual meeting of the Virginia Bar Association at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. As my topic, I chose the Supreme Court ruling on segregation, which has deeply disturbed me and all Americans who believe in the United States Constitution as a living document, unalterable except by the processes established when it was written to amend it legally.

As my report to the people this week, I am presenting excerpts from my address that may be of interest. In the first part of the address, I reviewed provisions in the Constitution that the Supreme Court brushed aside in arriving at its decision outlawing segregation in the public schools on May 17, 1954. Then, in turning to the Fourteenth Amendment, which the Court cited as the main authority for its May 17 decision, I pointed out that the preponderance of evidence presented to the Court showed that the States which ratified it did not understand it as applying to segregation in the schools. The Court, however, saw fit largely to disregard this evidence for which it had asked.

The excerpts from my address follow:

Although the Court admitted that "education is perhaps the most important function of State and local governments," it failed to follow that thought to its logical conclusion. The conclusion would be that, in lieu of specific Constitutional or statutory limitation, the States have the power to operate the kind of public schools they deem best, the equity of all pupils being protected.

Quoting from the decision in the Kansas case, the Court stated:

"...A sense of inferiority affects the motivation of a child to learn. Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of Negro children and to deprive them of some of the benefits they would receive in a racially integrated school system."

If this thesis had validity, the Court also should have treated the question of whether an adverse affect would result from the mixing of children of the same age level of lower intelligence with those of higher intelligence. Certainly differences of inferiority and superiority would be emphasized greatly by close proximity. What would be the effect on the pupils of higher intelligence levels? Would they have to follow instruction geared to less intelligent pupils? Educators have long advocated that greater opportunities be provided for exceptional pupils. They have not recommended mixing them with less able pupils.

Judge John J. Parker's words on July 15, 1955 when the Clarendon County case was heard by a three-judge federal court at Columbia point clearly to a means of continued school segregation on a voluntary basis. Were it not for the agitators who have no regard for the Constitution and for the best interests of a majority of both races, I believe voluntary segregation would work satisfactorily.

However, I cannot tell you that I believe it will work. Already petitions have been filed in several districts of South Carolina, since this hearing, asking for the admission of Negro pupils to white schools, where facilities are equal or better for the Negroes. The same thing is happening in other states.
Let me emphasize Judge Parker’s statements that “the Constitution does not require integration,” and that “it merely forbids the use of governmental power to enforce segregation.” These words are extremely important to the officials of the States and the schools, as we consider means of maintaining our way of life under the Constitution.

The solution to the problem lies in the hands of the States. While the Congress never would have been able to amend the Constitution, or to pass legislation, to declare separate school facilities discriminatory, neither could it now enact legislation to over-rule the action of the Court. There are not enough people in Washington concerned with the same principles stated by the Court. Not even the edict of the Court prevents the adoption of systems of classifying pupils other than that of race.

A friend has written me suggesting, facetiously, that I should introduce a bill making all legislation by the Supreme Court subject to review by the Congress. I agree that would be just as constitutional as what the Court itself has done.

I reject the contention of the propagandists who have convinced some sincere persons that the Supreme Court has spoken and everybody should bow to what the Court has declared “the law of the land.”

Those persons who sought to destroy the Constitution and the rights of the States did not meekly bow to the doctrine of “separate but equal” established under the Constitution by the Plessy v. Ferguson decision. Instead, for a half century they conducted a propaganda campaign against the Constitution and against the decision of a respected Court. We might do well to adopt the tactics of our opponents. If propaganda and psychological evidence are effective for our opponents, they can be effective for us. Our worthy objective of preserving the Constitution justifies the method.

Not only must the States find substitutes for the constitutional practices which have been invalidated, they must also fight each case with every legal weapon at their disposal. They must, at the same time, hold to the provision of equal facilities for the races, in spite of the temptation to forget humane treatment for those who exert pressures of propaganda and the courts.

In the Congress, I, for one, shall fight against every effort to enact legislation which I believe discriminatory against the greatest minority group in this nation—the white people of the South—who have been subjected to abuse worthy of the dictators.

I also propose to consider carefully every nomination made by the Chief Executive to the courts and to other positions of power. If I find the appointee, by his actions and statements, to be disqualified for the trust he would assume, I shall vote against his confirmation. By this method, the Senate can exert its rightful power in an effort to protect the Constitution against further inroads. I deem it my duty, my solemn obligation, under my oath, to take such action to defend the Constitution of the United States.

The process of adaptation of the Constitution to changing times had attained a speed so great that in Smith v. Allwright in 1944, the late Justice Roberts declared that Supreme Court decisions appeared to have taken on the attributes of restricted railroad tickets, valid only for the date of their issuance.

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We cannot flinch at being charged with “impeding progress.” The Supreme Court by its decree has impeded the progress made in 75 years of work to provide equal and adequate public education for the white and Negro children of the South. No accuser can point his finger in any other direction with as much accuracy.
CONGRESS DOES WELL

In my final report to the people until the Congress reconvenes next January, I would like to discuss my appraisal of the 1st Session of the 84th Congress.

I think the 1st Session has produced much constructive legislation. As a freshman Senator, I realize that I may not be as good a judge of the actions of Congress as veteran members, but I feel sure most of them will agree with my statement that this session has been a good one. I certainly will not say, however, that I have been pleased by every action of this session, although I have been pleased by most of them.

MAIL HEAVIEST ON TRADE BILL

When the Senate adjourned, it had acted on more than 1300 bills and resolutions. The one of most interest to South Carolinians—according to the more than 10,000 letters I received on this one subject—was HR One, better known as the trade bill. Our textile employees and employers were vitally concerned over the lack of protection afforded the textile industry against low tariff rates on foreign textiles in the original bill.

I am glad to report that 17 of us Senators from textile areas were able to get protection written into the new trade bill. Once this was done, the bill was then overwhelmingly passed by the Congress.

Shortly after the new law was approved, the State Department announced drastic tariff reductions negotiated at the CATT Conference in Geneva under the old law, which afforded little, if any, protection. I then introduced a resolution designed to head off these cuts. It was passed by the Senate, with 48 Senators joining as co-sponsors.

There is another bill now pending before the Agriculture Committee which would impose import quotas on foreign textiles and at the same time encourage the sale of surplus cotton for export. Senator Eastland and I, on behalf of ourselves and 50 colleagues, introduced this bill. It is scheduled for open hearings sometime this fall.

NO PARITY LEGISLATION

One of the drawbacks of the 1st Session was its failure to enact farm legislation to restore 90 per cent price supports and a cotton allotment guarantee for our small farmers. Both of these bills, however, are scheduled for early—and I hope—favorable action next year.

The Congress did, however, pass numerous bills that should greatly benefit our farmers in South Carolina and elsewhere.
BIPARTISAN SUPPORT HIGH

One of the highlights of the session was the strong bipartisan support given the President in his foreign policy. By an almost unanimous vote, the Senate backed the President on his Formosan policy by voting passage of the Formosa Resolution. Then, again, when the President went to the Big Four Conference he was given strong support by members on both sides of the aisle. According to all reports available at this time, he seems to have done a fine job there in laying the groundwork for easing world tensions and for establishing a true—and we hope—a lasting peace. I am sure his support at home helped considerably.

I must also commend the Congress for bolstering our defense needs by providing for a strong reserve force. This has been one of our country's greatest needs for years. This bill should make it possible for our country to remain strong both militarily and economically since several reservists can be maintained for the cost of one regular serviceman.

AGAINST AID AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Two major pieces of legislation were passed by the Congress that did not meet with my approval. They were the housing and foreign aid bills. I believe private enterprise is doing the housing job necessary. Thus I regret that the position of the House against public housing was not sustained in conference.

I also believe that we should be cutting back on foreign aid expenditures now instead of expanding this costly program which has already cost us $57 billion—all of which we have had to borrow. If we are ever going to reduce taxes and balance the budget, then we must begin tapering off on our foreign spending program. I am not against a reasonable foreign aid program, but I do believe we can do the necessary job with a great reduction in expenditures.

That is why I voted against both of these bills.