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PRESS STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON REQUEST TO CAA FOR BAN ON ALCOHOL ABOARD AIRLINERS, OCT. 14, 1955.

EDGEFIELD, S. C., Oct. 14--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) has called on the Civil Aeronautics Administration to ban the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard commercial airliners in the interest of public safety.

The South Carolina Democrat tonight made public a letter he has written CAA Administrator F. B. Lee, Thurmond stated that he is prepared to introduce appropriate legislation to prohibit the sale of alcohol aboard airliners in the event the CAA fails to approve his request for an administrative ban.

In addressing the annual convention banquet of the Women's Christian Temperance Union at Edgefield, the writer in Senator also stressed the importance of educating our youth in regard to the evils of alcoholism. He cited statistics which show a decline in the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the United States as a result of such programs.

Thurmond's letter to the CAA said:

"As you well know, alcohol has a very detrimental effect on some, and it could cause any of these persons who could be so affected to attempt to seize control of an aircraft in flight, thus endangering many lives unnecessarily.

Whether one sanctions drinking is not the question. The question to be considered is the safety and welfare of our citizens--not only those who travel by air, but also those on the ground below who might find themselves in the path of a crashing airplane as the result of the actions of a berserk drinker."

Thurmond stated that although he does not drink he has nevertheless conferred with others who do and has found that they share his views concerning "this grave danger to the safe operation of our commercial airlines."

End

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