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Remarks on CBS Capitol Cloakroom about education

Strom Thurmond
DO YOU FORESEE ANY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THIS SESSION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION?

Just as national defense is a primary obligation of the Federal Government, I believe that education should be a primary duty of the States.

My state of South Carolina for the past several years has been engaged in a vast expansion and improvement program for her schools. We have spent $124,000,000 during the past four years for buildings. The State has taken over all school bus transportation to provide equality of facilities to all districts and all children. Teachers salaries have been raised 43 per cent of the state aid base of four years ago. More than 1200 school districts have been consolidated into 104 districts today so as to provide better schools in more economic areas.

In order to meet these increased educational costs, the people of South Carolina have taken upon themselves a three per cent sales tax. Its revenue is set aside specifically for educational purposes.

This program in our State is continuing to meet the demands of the people upon it for an adequate educational system. I do not believe federal legislation would in any way add to the progress our people are making in this field. I do not foresee the likelihood of such legislation.