Statement by Senator Thurmond on State of Union Message of the President, Jan. 6, 1955

I believe that most Americans will agree generally with the President in his statements that the United States must remain strong and in a state of preparedness. Of course, his statement that "we must be willing to use the processes of negotiation" is correct. In this way we can strive to maintain the peace so long as other nations are willing to negotiate in good faith.

I cannot agree with the President's request for a more flexible parity program. I favor full 90 per cent parity.

While the President called for no tax reductions at this time, I feel that some larger exemptions, such as proposed last year, should be given to taxpayers in the lower income brackets. However, I believe at the same time we should seek to move nearer toward a balanced budget by the process of carefully examining all requests for appropriations and cutting out waste where it can be detected and eliminating unnecessary expenditures as they are discovered.

As the various proposals are made in detail, I shall consider them individually and cast my votes according to what I consider the best interests of South Carolina and the nation.