

95-177

TELEVISION REPORT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), JULY 27, 1955

MR. COAR: Senator Thurmond, with the 1st session of the 84th Congress drawing to a close, what is your estimation of the progress made by this Democratic-controlled Congress?

SEN. THURMOND: I think the 1st Session of the 84th Congress has been a good one. I realize that I am a freshman Senator and that I might not be as good a judge as some of the older Members of Congress, such as Senators George, Hayden, and others. But, Bob, I believe they too will agree with me that much constructive legislation has been passed this session.

MR. COAR: What do you consider to be among the major actions of the Congress this year, Senator, from the viewpoint of your constituents?

SEN. THURMOND: If by that question, you are asking what legislation was of most interest to South Carolinians, I would have to answer HR One. That is the ~~free~~ trade bill. I think I can safely estimate I received 10,000 letters or more on this bill alone.

MR. COAR: Speaking of the trade bill, Senator, I believe you really went to work for the textile industry and its many employees in South Carolina in answer to their letters on HR One. You got the trade bill amended to provide the best protection to the textile industry since the inception of the free trade

program. Then, in addition to that, you gained passage of the Thurmond Resolution to head off the drastic tariff cuts negotiated at the GATT Conference under the old trade law. Do you have any other legislation in mind that you believe was of particular concern to South Carolinians?

SEN. THURMOND: I know I was glad, and I feel sure my constituents were pleased that the Congress backed the President so strongly by voting passage of the Formosa Resolution. While I'm on this subject, Bob, I would also like to call attention to the strong bi-partisan support the President has received from the Congress on his efforts at the Big Four Meeting. 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.

Another measure of much concern in South Carolina was the Military Construction bill. As passed, this bill authorized \$38 million in construction funds for 12 South Carolina military bases. One of the most important items in the bill was \$5 million for construction of a new permanent hospital at Fort Jackson.

I was glad to see the Congress pass a Reserve bill. A strong reserve force is one of this country's greatest needs if we are to remain strong both militarily and economically.

Several bills of importance to our farmers were passed. Among them were bills to increase exports of surplus farm commodities and to place a ceiling of 3 per cent interest rates on all farm disaster loans.

I regret, however, that the Senate Agriculture Committee did not act on bills that would have restored 90 per cent of parity on the basic crops. Also, the committee failed to act on other farm legislation I co-sponsored that would have guaranteed a four-acre cotton allotment to our small farmers. The Senate did, however, act favorably on a bill introduced by several of us that would have given additional basic crop acreage to our disaster-stricken farmers. This measure was later killed in the House.

In closing, Bob, I would like to point out that I found myself in disagreement with both the public housing and foreign aid bills as passed by the Senate. I believe private enterprise can do and is doing the housing job. And, I also believe that we should be cutting back on foreign aid expenditures now instead of expanding this costly program. If we are ever going to reduce taxes and balance the budget, then we must begin tapering off on our foreign spending program. It has already cost us \$57 billion, all of which has been borrowed by us to give away to the rest of the world. I am not against a reasonable foreign aid program, but I do believe we can do the necessary job with ~~at least~~ a great reduction in expenditures.

MR. COAR: Thank you, Senator Thurmond.

THE END