MR. COAR: Senator Thurmond, now that the 1st Session of the 84th Congress has drawn to a close, what is your estimation of the progress made by this Democratic-controlled Congress:

SEN. THURMOND: It is my opinion, Bob, that the 1st Session 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. But, I believe that they too will agree with me that much progress has been made by the 1st Session. I certainly will not say that I have been pleased by every action of the Congress, but I have been pleased by most of them.

MR. COAR: I believe that when the Senate adjourned this week, it had acted on approximately 1300 bills and resolutions. What legislation did your constituents in South Carolina show the greatest interest in?

SEN. THURMOND: That's certainly an easy question to answer. HR 1, better known to many as the Reciprocal Trade Agreements bill, was an easy winner. I am sure I can safely estimate I received more than 10,000 letters on this one bill alone. Our textile employees and employers in South Carolina are gravely concerned over the threat of damage posed by low tariff rates on cheap Japanese textile goods shipped into our country. I certainly share their concern, and I have attempted to do everything possible to head off these tariff reductions.

MR. COAR: I am sure, Senator, that everyone on Capitol Hill is fully aware of your concern over this threat to the textile
industry. I believe you have led all three fights that have been waged in the Senate this year in favor of the textile people. First, you got the trade bill amended to provide the best protection to the textile industry since the inception of the trade program. After textile tariff cuts were negotiated at Geneva under the old law, you then gained passage of the Thurmond Resolution, designed to head off these reductions. And, just the other day you introduced a measure on behalf of yourself and 61 other Senators that would benefit both our farmers and our textile people. How about telling our listeners about this bill?

SEN. THURMOND: Well, Bob, this bill has twin prongs. It is designed to encourage the sale of cotton for export. At the same time, it places an import quota on cotton-manufactured products being imported into our country from Japan and other textile-manufacturing areas. The purpose of this legislation is to try to solve the many problems that today confront our cotton-growing and textile-manufacturing industries. South Carolina, as you know, is very dependent upon both of these great industries.

MR. COAR: Senator, when you introduced the bill during the final week of Congress, you didn't expect action this year, did you?

SEN. THURMOND: No, Bob. My purpose in introducing the bill last week was to get it before the Senate Agriculture Committee so hearings can be held on it during the fall. At that time, cotton growers, textile manufacturers, and all interested parties will be given ample opportunity to present their views to help us draw up in final form legislation that will solve the problems of these
two great industries. In fact, Bob, shortly after the bill was introduced, a large delegation of Congressmen and Senators talked these problems over with the President at the White House. He indicated to us at that time that he would probably consult his cabinet in arriving at a decision on exporting more cotton and restricting imports of foreign textiles.

MR. COAR: How do you think the sale of this surplus cotton will benefit our farmers?

SEN. THURMOND: Our cotton industry, 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 per cent to less than 30 per cent of the world total, and it is in danger of being lost. Cotton acreage in this country has been reduced from 25,244,000 acres in 1953 to 17,096,100 acres in 1955. Already thousands of farm families have been seriously affected by the acreage restrictions. By reason of the drastic cut in 1955 acreage alone, 55,000 cotton farm families were put out of business and 130,000 additional farmers already making less than $1,000 annually 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 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. At present our government now has approximately 8 million bales in storage. Until a part, or most, of this can be sold, then cotton acreage restrictions will have to be continued.

MR. COAR: There has been some speculation that the sale of surplus cotton on the world markets might affect the price of cotton here at home if it is sold during the marketing season. Do you have any comments on this view?

SEN. THURMOND: I don't think anyone can predict or speculate with any degree of accuracy just what, if any, effect, selling our surplus cotton might have on the domestic market. I am sure—and I might add that I have been assured—that the Agriculture Department has no intention of dumping this cotton on the world markets during the domestic marketing season. Thus, I see little likelihood that the price of cotton here at home would be affected by a re-vitalized cotton export policy. Incidentally, my bill could not even be acted on until after the current marketing season.
MR. COAR: Getting back to our discussion of the progress made by the 1st Session of the 84th Congress, how about reviewing briefly for our listeners a few of the bills you introduced this session?

SEN. THURMOND: I believe I introduced about 20 bills and resolutions, Bob, most of which received favorable action, either directly or in the form of other legislation. I joined a number of my colleagues in co-sponsoring what I believe to be constructive legislation. A large number of these also won favorable action— I am glad to report. Starting with farm legislation, I would first mention my 90 per cent of parity bill which—I regret to say—did not receive favorable attention. Chairman Ellender of the Agriculture Committee told me he plans to push for enactment the rigid price support bill next January, after hearings are held this fall. He believes we will be in a stronger position to defeat advocates of flexible supports at that time. I have high hopes for passage of 90 per cent parity next year.

The Congress passed my bill to help restore the rice industry in South Carolina and also a measure designed to place an interest rate ceiling of three per cent on all disaster loans made to our farmers. Senator Johnston and I co-sponsored the rice bill, and we both introduced legislation on the farm interest rates.

I co-sponsored other legislation to provide additional basic crop acreage to our disaster-stricken farmers, and also to guarantee our small farmers a four-acre cotton allotment. The Senate passed the disaster bill, but it was tabled in the House Agriculture Committee.
MR. COAR: Didn't you also introduce a bill that would place farm veterans on an equal par with other veterans in obtaining GI home loans?

SEN. THURMOND: Yes, Bob. That bill was finally passed in the form of HR 5106, since the House bill passed first. I was certainly glad to see this inequity in the law cleared up.

Speaking of farm legislation, Bob, I almost forgot to mention another bill I think is of much importance to our Southeastern farmers. Congressman Dorn and I introduced a measure that would direct the Agriculture Department to establish a Southeastern Soil and Water Conservation Laboratory. The purpose of this bill is to provide for a continuing study of the best possible soil and water conservation practices for our area. I am hoping for action on this legislation next year.

MR. COAR: I know there is one bill you introduced that was evidently shelved in the Judiciary Committee over your protest.

SEN. THURMOND: I believe you are speaking of my bill to curb the power of the Supreme Court and other appellate courts to hear appeals on school segregation cases. The reception this bill has received has convinced me that there are few Members of Congress that are in accord with our views in South Carolina.

The operation of our public schools in South Carolina is a local matter, and it should be left to the local courts and state agencies to handle. This bill would restrict all appeals on school segregation cases to the federal district courts, where
local judges can sit in judgment on local matters.

MR. COAR: Changing the subject, didn't you recently announce that South Carolina will soon have a better storm warning system?

SEN. THURMOND: Yes, Bob. We will get better storm warning equipment and facilities because the Congress appropriated additional money this year for that purpose. I was a co-sponsor of the amendment that added this money. Thus, when it came to deciding where the money would be spent, I made sure that South Carolina was not left out of the picture. You know, we have suffered very severe damages along our coastal areas and further inland as a result of recent hurricanes and storms. The damage from last year's Hurricane Hazel prompted me to introduce a bill authorizing survey by the Corps of Engineers of our coastal areas in South Carolina. The purpose of the survey—which was approved—is to determine the best possible means of protecting our coastline against future hurricanes and storms.

MR. COAR: I must say, Senator, that you have been quite active for a freshman Senator. You have certainly been effective in gaining passage of legislation that is vital to South Carolinians in every walk of life. Getting back to the other accomplishments of the 1st Session of the 84th Congress, was there any other legislation you were particularly glad to see win passage?

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. I think this served as a strong deterrent to war in the Far East. While I'm on this subject, I would also like to call attention to the strong bi-partisan support the President received from the Congress in 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 to South Carolina was the military construction bill. As passed, this bill authorized approximately $40 million in construction funds for 12 South Carolina military installations. One of the most important items in the bill was $5 million for construction of a new permanent hospital at Fort Jackson.

MR. COAR: Excuse me for interrupting here, Senator, but I believe that Fort Jackson money was almost left out by mistake. Isn't that correct?

SEN. THURMOND: That question did arise on the Senate floor, Bob. To set the record straight and to make sure there was no doubt, I asked the Appropriations Committee chairman specifically if the Fort Jackson money was in the bill. His affirmative answer then made it a matter of record.

MR. COAR: As a leader in the fight for a strong reserve force, I know you were glad that the Congress passed a reserve program this year.
SEN. THURMOND: I certainly was. A strong reserve force is one of this country's greatest needs if we are to remain strong both militarily and economically. That is why I favored a small reduction in our regular establishment and a great increase in our reserve forces.

MR. COAR: What about the housing and foreign aid legislation passed this year? Didn't you vote against both bills?

SEN. THURMOND: On the housing bill, I found myself in disagreement with the Senate but in full accord with the House. The Senate approved 135,000 units of new public housing construction. The House eliminated the public housing units from the housing bill. In free conference, however, it was agreed to settle on 45,000 public housing units.

I was thus disappointed that new public housing construction was approved. I believe that private enterprise can do and is doing the housing job.

I believe 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. This program has already cost us $57 billion—all of which has been borrowed by us to give away to the rest of the world. Now, I am not against a reasonable foreign aid program, but I do believe we can accomplish the necessary job with a great reduction in expenditures.

In closing, Bob, I would like to say a word of thanks to this radio station for making these radio reports to the people.
possible as a public service. I shall look forward to presenting them again next year when the Congress reconvenes in January.

-THE END-