1. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Senator, as a member of the Senate, a Brigadier General in the Army Reserve and the immediate past President of the Reserve Officers Association, I know you had a deep interest in the Reserve Bill. How about telling us why you thought passage of this legislation was so important?

SENATOR THURMOND: Well, Capt. Lowry, as a Reserve officer for approximately 27 years it has been my privilege to participate actively in reserve training throughout these years and on active duty with the Army during World War II. During this time I have been deeply impressed by the constant need for reserve forces adequately trained and equipped to meet the requirements of a national emergency.

There is no question but that America must remain strong. The only language a dictator understands is the language of force; and we must remain strong if we are to avoid attack and survive as a nation.

There are two ways by which we can keep our country strong. One is to have a large and expensive Regular Military Establishment. The other is to have a Regular Military Establishment of reasonable size, backed up by a large, combat Ready Reserve. I am confident that the latter method is the American way and, further, that it will give us the most economical and best security for our defense dollars.

2. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Senator, what do you think of the new Reserve Act as finally passed?
SENATOR THURMOND: First, I would like to commend Assistant Secretary of Defense, Carter L. Burgess for his fine work in drafting most of the ideas that were finally incorporated in the Reserve Act. Secretary Burgess, as you know, went to the Defense Department from right here in Columbia where he was connected with the University of South Carolina.

Taking the Act as a whole, I believe it is a practical, workable law. It might have been improved, but, on the other hand, I believe it will enable the Armed Services to go forward and give the country a first-class reserve—something we have never had in all our history. If the law is administered properly, we should have a strong reserve which is so essential to the protection and survival of the United States in this critical period of history.

3. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Now, Senator, perhaps you can answer some questions that will help clarify for our television viewers some of the provisions of this new Reserve Bill. Under our reserve program, we have what is called the Ready Reserve and the Stand-by Reserve. These are the 2 essential elements of our reserve set-up. What is the structure of these 2 elements in the new law?

SENATOR THURMOND: In the new structure, the Ready Reserve is designed to contain the Reserve Forces needed to meet the requirements during the early phases of a war or general mobilization. Therefore, it will contain all of the organized portion of the Reserve Forces. Such forces as might be required for a Korea-type emergency would be contained in the Ready Reserve. The Ready Reserve would be subject to a continuous screening process to assure that its members are available in an emergency. The Stand-by Reserve on the other
hand is essentially a nonorganized pool from which the experienced personnel needed for the secondary phases of a war or general mobilization would be obtained through a process of selective recall.

4. CAPTAIN LOWRY: You mentioned that the Ready Reserve should be subjected to a continuous screening process. What is meant by this screening process?

SENATOR THURMOND: This is the process by which members of the Ready Reserve who possess critical civilian skills in excess of the requirements therefor, individuals occupying key positions in Government or defense supporting industry, those whose order to military service in an emergency would result in extreme personal or community hardship, and those who possess military skills in excess of requirements will be transferred to the Standby Reserve. Top priority for such transfer will be given to members who have participated in combat.

5. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Does the act in any way change the status of members of the Ready and Standby Reserve in regard to being called to active duty?

SENATOR THURMOND: To a degree. Under the act, the President has the authority, in time of emergency proclaimed by him, to order to active duty up to 1 million members of the Ready Reserve without further congressional authorization. The Standby Reserve continues to be liable for active duty only in time of war or emergency declared by the Congress, subject, however, to selective recall.

6. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Will the Ready Reserve be a larger force in order to carry out its new role under the act?
SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. The statutory size of the Ready Reserve is increased from 1,500,000 to 2,900,000, including members of the Reserve serving with the Active Forces.

7. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Does the act contain provision to increase participation in Reserve training?

SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. It imposes on all young men entering the Armed Forces after its enactment the obligation to take part in Reserve training, and provides effective measures for insuring compliance with that obligation.

8. CAPTAIN LOWRY: To what extent will such young men be required to take part in Reserve training?

SENATOR THURMOND: The act establishes a requirement to participate in a minimum of 48 scheduled drills or training periods and not more than 17 days active duty for training per year or, in lieu thereof, a maximum of 30 days of active duty for training per year. Those precluded from training by distance, geography or occupation may take the 30 days active duty training, correspondence courses, or may attend week-end drills once monthly, the equivalent of four weekly drills. The Secretary of Defense is authorized to make exceptions to this general rule.

9. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Senator, how is the Defense Department going to insure that Ready Reservists will participate in training?

SENATOR THURMOND: A member of the Ready Reserve, except a member of the National Guard who is subject to a separate State code, who fails or refuses to satisfactorily perform the training prescribed for him may be ordered, without his consent, to perform annual active duty training for 45 days or he may be inducted under the
draft law. Failure to comply with such active duty orders could result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

10. **CAPTAIN LOWRY:** Will the ROTC continue to be the primary source of junior officers for the Reserve Forces?

**SENATOR THURMOND:** Yes. All qualified ROTC graduates will be commissioned in the Reserve of the appropriate service. Graduates of the program who enter active military service for 2 or more years will acquire a 6-year military obligation. Those who are excess to Active Force requirements will be given 6 months of active duty for training, following which they will remain in the Ready Reserve until the eighth anniversary of the receipt of their commissions. I might say here, Captain Lowry, that I think the Reserve Officers Training Corps has done a magnificent job in furnishing our Reserve Forces and our Active Duty Forces in time of war with outstanding military leaders. In World War II 98 per cent of all officers who served in the Army were reservists, most of them coming from college ROTC units. Our reservists have certainly performed a great service to our country in time of peace and war.

11. **CAPTAIN LOWRY:** Could you tell us, Senator, what tangible benefits accrue from Ready Reserve training?

**SENATOR THURMOND:** First of all, the individual who participates in Ready Reserve Training is entitled to pay. In addition, he is periodically considered for promotion, and he may, by satisfactory participation over a period of years, qualify for retirement benefits. These, Captain Lowry, are what you call tangible benefits. There are many, many intangible benefits that would accrue to a Ready
Reservist that would take too long and too much time to elaborate upon here.

12. CAPTAIN LOWRY: What about the Standby Reservist, Senator?
SENATOR THURMOND: A member of the Standby Reserve who performs Reserve training is entitled to the award of retirement and promotion point credits. It is not anticipated that he will be paid for such participation.

13. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Well, Senator, under the new law may a young man enlist directly into the Reserve forces?
SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. The act provides three means for direct entry:

   First, any qualified young man, prior to being ordered to report for induction, may enlist in the Reserve for 6 years, subject to the requirement that during that period he will perform 2 years of active service. He remains draft liable until his 2 years of active duty, and is subject to the 45-day compliance measure. (2-3-1)

   Second, until August 1, 1959, a qualified young man under age 18½ may enlist in the Reserve for 8 years, undergo 6 months training at $50 per month, and be deferred from induction so long as he satisfactorily takes part in Reserve training during the period of his enlistment. Entrance into this program will be subject to quota controls with an annual maximum of 250,000 as prescribed by the act. (2-7-0)

   I will not discuss the 3rd provision, as the Defense Department does not plan to implement it at present.

14. CAPTAIN LOWRY: If a young man attending high school wishes to enlist in the 8-year program, must he leave school to undergo the 6 months training?
SENATOR THURMOND: No. The act provides that he shall not be called to active duty for training until he ceases to pursue the high school course of instruction satisfactorily, graduates, or becomes 20 years of age, whichever occurs first.

15. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Where will the 6 months of active duty for training be conducted?

SENATOR THURMOND: This training will take place at camps that have been designated by the appropriate military departments. For instance, it was revealed recently that Fort Jackson will be the training center for these Reserve volunteers in the Southeastern States. I might say here that I know the people of Columbia and South Carolina were glad to hear this news. Fort Jackson is one of the finest training centers in the world. I am glad that the Defense Department recognizes the values accruing to the Army through the utilization of the natural and other training facilities available at Fort Jackson. I think, too, that the hospitality of the people of Columbia and South Carolina to these young men in uniform means much to the Army's decision to continue to use Fort Jackson in time of peace as well as in time of war. I am glad, also, that we were able to get a $5 million appropriation through the Congress this year for construction of a new, modern hospital at Fort Jackson. This hospital will be of permanent-type construction, and I believe that this appropriation for permanent construction will aid us materially in our efforts to clear up any doubts as to the permanency of Fort Jackson as an Army training center.

16. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Will there be an opportunity for young men enlisting directly with the Reserve to qualify for commissions?
SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. The act establishes the basis for such persons to attend officer candidate schools.

17. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Is the 6 months' trainee entitled to any veterans' benefits?

SENATOR THURMOND: He will be eligible for certain benefits such as reemployment rights, hospital and medical care, serviceman's indemnity payment, disability retirement, death gratuity, Veterans' Administration compensation or pension, payment for accrued leave, and Federal employees compensation.

18. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Legislation in effect since June, 1951 provides that each person under age 26, upon his induction, enlistment, or appointment in the Armed Forces, incurs an obligation to serve on active training and service and in a Reserve component for a total of 8 years. What is the military obligation under the new law?

SENATOR THURMOND: The Reserve Forces Act of 1955 imposes on all persons entering the Armed Forces, after its passage, a lesser military obligation of 6 years. It does not alter the eight-year obligation of Korean veterans or others who entered the Armed Forces prior to its enactment. However, it does not require active participation on their part.

19. CAPTAIN LOWRY: Does the act affect the military obligation of anyone now in the active service or in the Reserve Forces?

SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. Incentive programs affect 3 categories of persons:

First, a person now in the National Guard who entered before age 18½ may reduce his required period of participation from age 28 to an 8-year total by undergoing not less than 3 consecutive months of active duty for training.
Second, an individual who is released from active duty after passage of this act may be offered the opportunity to fulfill his Ready Reserve obligation and qualify for transfer to the Standby Reserve by joining and satisfactorily participating in the training of a Reserve Unit for a period of 1 year. During the 1-year period he is subject to the 45-day compliance provisions of the act. This program will be available until July 1, 1957.

I will not discuss the third category because the Defense Department does not plan to implement it at present.

20. CAPTAIN LOWRY: There was much discussion in the Congress, Senator, concerning a bonus for persons now serving in the Armed Forces who might volunteer to participate in Reserve training. I believe that measure was eliminated before final passage. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR THURMOND: Yes. It was eliminated in a Senate-House Free Conference Committee after being passed by the Senate. As you remember, Captain Lowry, this plan was offered by Senator Russell of Georgia, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I opposed the bonus proposal in testimony before the Armed Services Committee. I do not believe that patriotism can be bought. I believe that every young man owes a great obligation to his country and that if we are to preserve all the blessings of our democratic way of life that we must be prepared; and we can only be prepared through our young men answering the call to service, whether it be for active duty in time of war or Reserve training in time of peace. I might add, however, that I do feel that our young men who render such splendid service in the Reserves should be rewarded with adequate compensation and appropriate benefits.

THE END