

(17-15)

STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON HURRICANE WARNING
SYSTEM, SENATE FLOOR, JUNE 16, 1955

Mr. President, as a co-sponsor of the Green amendment / and a representative of a state that has lost many lives / and millions of dollars in damages / due to hurricanes and tornadoes, I want to urge the Senate to approve this increase in funds to provide our country / with the most adequate protection possible against these weather hazards.

On October 15, 1954, thousands of residents of South Carolina / sustained millions of dollars in damages as a result of Hurricane Hazel. This hurricane unexpectedly turned inland in the vicinity of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina--one of the finest beach resorts in the world--and virtually ripped up that beach, many others in the area, and then turned further inland to cause still more damage to our farm crops and other property.

One function of the Weather Bureau stations along our coasts / is to issue warnings of tornadoes and hurricanes in advance / so our people can at least prepare for the worst. Even with the present limited facilities, our Weather Bureau has saved untold lives and damage. According to expert testimony, long-range radar equipment is most useful in tracking down these hazards.

The Green amendment would provide an additional appropriation of \$5 million / to equip 55 of our stations with this modern equipment. This is 25% less than the number / experts say we need. I believe we can well afford this additional outlay in expenditures / which could save many lives and property losses.

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Mr. President, I yield to no one/in my earnestness to reduce unnecessary government expenditures, but anytime we can spend a few million/to save many millions--not to mention the safety of our population--then I believe that is sound government economy.

THE END