

NEWS STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC), ON GEORGE
COMMITTEE INVITATION, February 18, 1956

Washington, February 18---In response to a letter from the Acting Senate Majority leader, Senator Thurmond has written Senator Clements that he has "no knowledge of any undue pressure from either side" of the gas bill.

At the same time he disclosed the contents of his letter. Senator Thurmond stated that he is supporting the investigation to the fullest extent because the public is entitled to know all the facts.

On February 14, Senator George, chairman of the special investigating committee, made a statement on the floor of the Senate inviting Senators or anybody else who might have information as to improper pressure on either side of the gas bill to present it to the committee. The same day Senator Clements wrote a letter enclosing a copy of Senator George's remarks and calling attention to them.

In reply on February 15, Senator Thurmond wrote the Acting Majority Leader:

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your letter of February 14 with which you enclosed a copy of the statement Senator George made on the floor of the Senate on the 14th inviting any Senator or other person to present any evidence they might have as to improper pressure on either side of the question involved in the Harris-Fulbright Bill.

I received a fair volume of correspondence about the bill, most of it against the bill. However, I have no knowledge of any undue pressure from either side. I have not been offered and I have not accepted any campaign contribution from anybody on either side of the gas bill question or from any other source. I do not know of any information in my possession which would be of assistance to the Committee.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Strom Thurmond

ST/hll