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Statement on tax-exemption and air safety bills

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR, JANUARY 5, 1956, ON TAX-EXEMPT AND AIR SAFETY BILLS.

Mr. President:

I send to the desk for appropriate reference a bill which would deny tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to any organization which engages in the promotion of litigation to which it is not a party. This bill would also affect the tax status of contributions made to such organizations by individuals or other organizations. Donors would not be allowed to deduct such gifts in listing deductions on their income tax returns.

The bill would not affect legal aid societies or similar organizations which provide free legal services to persons unable to pay litigation costs. It would, however, apply to approximately 35,000 organizations currently enjoying tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

Passage of this bill will be a positive step to plug one of the loopholes in our tax laws. Our internal revenue laws require almost constant scrutiny and revision to protect the Government and the taxpayer, and to prevent unfair discrimination in favor of certain organizations.

Allowing any organization to spend thousands and millions of tax-free dollars to promote lawsuits to which such an organization is not a party is certainly not fair to the Government or other taxpayers.

I also hope the Internal Revenue Service will keep a closer watch on all tax-exempt organizations to make certain the privilege of tax exemption is not being abused in any manner. Mr. Rose, Undersecretary of the Treasury Department, testified before a Congressional
Committee last year/that the status of certain organizations was
being reviewed.

Mr. President, I also send to the desk for appropriate
reference/a bill which would ban the consumption or service of
alcoholic beverages/aboard our commercial and service airliners.
Legislation in this field is necessary/because the Civil Aeronautics
Board has refused to issue an administrative order/against this
hazard to commercial air safety.

Alcohol has a very detrimental effect on some people, and
it could cause any person so affected/to disrupt the operation of
an aircraft in flight, thus endangering many lives unnecessarily.
Whether one sanctions drinking is not the question. The question
to be considered/is the safety and welfare of all our citizens.

I have received many letters from persons all over the country/urging enactment of this legislation. I hope it will receive prompt
and favorable action by the Congress/in the interest of public
safety.

I also send to the desk for appropriate reference/three
private relief bills.

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to have placed
in the appendix of the Record/an article from the January issue
of Harper's Magazine/entitled, "The Southern Case Against Desegregation."

This article was written by one of America's most outstanding
newspaper editors, Mr. Thomas R. Waring, of the Charleston (S.C.)
News and Courier. I share Mr. Waring's views and I commend him
for breaking the barrier/against publication of the Southern viewpoint
in many of our nation's periodicals.

THE END