STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, JANUARY 5, 1956.

I think that President Eisenhower's message shows that he has taken due note of two of the most important problems with which we are faced at this session of Congress--the continued necessity for a strong defense establishment and the vital need for farm legislation. His special message on farm problems will be awaited by me with great interest. As he stated, "There is no single easy solution." The Congress must make every effort possible to solve the problems of surpluses, declining farm prices, rising costs, and to expand domestic and foreign markets for farm commodities. Whatever proposals are made and whatever legislation is enacted, I believe that my resolution should be enacted to establish a non-partisan commission to study the many farm problems and to make recommendations to the next Congress.

The President has demonstrated by his message that he is a realist in dealing with the Communists. His statement that our policy must be "designed primarily to forward the achievement of our own objectives than rather/to meet each shift and change on the Communist front" is reassuring.

The President stated that he expected the budget to be in balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956 and that he would propose a balanced budget for the year ending June 30, 1957. He said that, "A tax cut can be deemed justifiable only when it will not unbalance the budget," and that such a budget should make some provision for a reduction in our national debt. I shall be happy to see the budget balanced and I hope that some reduction can be made in the national debt. I also hope that unnecessary spending overseas and a greater exercise of economy in government at home can be effected and result in some reduction of taxes.
I regret that the President has been persuaded to recommend the establishment of a commission to interfere in matters reserved by the Constitution to control of the individual states. In his message he referred to allegations that Negro citizens are being "deprived of their right to vote" and subjected to "unwarranted economic pressures."

I have read in the newspapers of some instances where Negroes have attempted to exert economic pressure to obtain their objectives. However, the Federal Government has no right to try to force those Negroes to ride the buses or to stay off them, to trade in certain stores or not to trade in them. Nor does the Federal Government have the right to interfere in any similar instance that might involve white persons instead of Negroes. Both white and Negro citizens are subject to the police powers reserved to the states. The proposal to establish this commission is apparently a step toward further interference in matters which come under state authority.

Such a resolution shall never be passed as long as I am able to stand and fight on the floor of the Senate.

I regret that the President saw fit again to recommend federal aid for school construction, although he stated that federal aid "should in no way jeopardize the freedom of local school systems." But only this morning the newspapers carried a significant statement by a Democratic Negro Congressman from New York who also advocates federal aid to schools. He stated that if the Federal Aid School Bill was brought up in the House, there would be sufficient names to attach an anti-segregation rider, preventing the allocation of funds to any school practicing segregation. We must recognize that control goes with the purse strings.
South Carolina has met its obligation in providing an equal education opportunity in her public schools regardless of race. The people of South Carolina themselves have paid for the equalization program. No other state has exerted as great an effort on behalf of its schools as South Carolina has in proportion to average personal income. Most states are richer than South Carolina. They can and should build the schools they need without federal aid, as our State did.

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