

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN UNITED STATES  
SENATE, MARCH 16, 1956, ON 15th ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF ART.

*Original manuscript - Strom Thurmond*

Mr. President, The National Gallery of Art marks the 15th anniversary of the opening of its doors <sup>tomorrow</sup> today, March 17. The occasion will be observed by the showing of collections of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation of paintings, ranging from the 13th to the 19th Centuries. The gala anniversary will also be featured by exhibits of other works of art collected over the years by the late Andrew W. Mellon, by Mr. Chester Dale, Lessing Rosenwald, the Widener Foundation, and other individuals and organizations whose generosity to the American people have indeed made this national capital preeminent as a world cultural center.

It is a source of great satisfaction and pride to me, ~~Mr. President,~~ <sup>Mr. President,</sup> and other South Carolinians to know that our state will be well represented on this occasion because of the works of two leading citizens. The late Claude W. Kress, who died in 1940, was second only to his brother, the late Samuel H. Kress, in contributing generously to the foundation bearing their family name. Mr. Claude Kress was also a benefactor of Clemson Agricultural College, in South Carolina, the Log Foundation of North Carolina and the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. Mr. Kress resided at Buckfield Plantation, Yemassee, South Carolina. He had been president for twelve years of S. H. Kress & Co., a leading American enterprise.

Claude Kress is remembered with appreciation and gratitude by the state of South Carolina for the Foundation's gifts to the

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Columbia Museum of Art. Two years ago at this time, at ceremonies dedicating a wing of the museum/and the display of a large art collection given by the Kress family, Governor James F. Byrnes paid homage to the memory of Claude W. Kress/and his eleemosynary works.

On that occasion, as on ~~this day~~ <sup>tomorrow</sup>, Mr. Kress's daughters are attending ceremonies marking the unveiling of the latest acquisitions/of the Kress Foundation — paintings and sculptures/which ultimately will become the property of the American people. Mrs. C. Wesley Frame, the former Rosalind Kress of Yemassee, South Carolina, and Mrs. Raymond Jack, who also has a home in Yemassee, are in Washington today for the national gallery anniversary.

I should also like to cite another distinguished citizen of South Carolina/whom we all have known over the years as the director of the National Gallery of Art — Mr. David Finley. Mr. Finley's father was for many years/a member of the House of Representatives from the Charlestown district. David Finley is retiring in June/from the responsibilities which he has discharged with such distinction/since that day in March, 1941, when Andrew Mellon's bequest to the American people/materialized with the opening of the magnificent structure on the Mall, within view of this capitol.

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