1-7-1957

Introduction of seven Senate bills

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Introduction of seven Senate bills" (1957). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 1443. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/1443

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Mr. President. I would like to send to the desk for appropriate reference seven bills.

The first, entitled, "A bill to prevent the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard commercial passenger aircraft and military aircraft," received strong support from all areas of the country during the Second Session of the 84th Congress. I deem this legislation to be of vital importance to the safety and well-being of all Americans who travel the airways and those on the ground who may be subjected to the tragedy of an air crash caused by the actions of some berserk passenger under the influence of alcoholic beverages. I hope this bill will receive prompt attention by the committee to which it is referred so that hearings can be held in the Senate for the purpose of presenting the real facts about the dangers inherent in the continuation of this practice of serving intoxicating beverages aboard commercial and military aircraft.

The second bill I offer for introduction is entitled, "A bill to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, to prevent the allocation of procurement contracts to certain designated geographical areas, and for other purposes." The purpose of this legislation, Mr. President, is to curb the practice of channeling Government procurement contracts to preferential areas of the country at the expense of other areas where manufacturers are capable of providing the same goods and services at lower
cost to the Government and American taxpayers. This
totally unfair method of awarding Government contracts
has resulted in gross inequities under both administrations.
At one time, the Office of Defense Mobilization had author­
ized set-asides of as much as 50 per cent and I protested
against this. But, during the 84th Congress I discovered
that Dr. Arthur Flemming had authorized a 100 per cent
procurement set-aside for a labor-surplus area. This order
excluded all plants outside this particular area from
presenting any bids whatsoever, thereby knocking from con­
tention a plant in Greenville, South Carolina, which special­
ized in that type product and which could have undertaken
these contracts at a low cost to the Government. I have
written to Dr. Flemming protesting this type action, but
I have received no satisfaction from his replies. Thus,
legislation is necessary to bring about a reversal of this
discriminatory policy by administrative decree.

The third bill I offer for appropriate reference is
entitled, "A bill to eliminate claims of immunity from State
and local taxes based on contracts with the United States
or its agencies or instrumentalities." This legislation is
designed specifically to prohibit contractors negotiating
contracts with the Federal Government from gaining immunity
from State and local sales taxes on their purchases used
in fulfilling these obligations. Too many revenue sources have already been closed to the States. This is clearly one area in which the taxing power of the State should not be denied under the guise of federal immunity.

I offer another bill entitled, "A bill to provide for the establishment and operation of a laboratory for a study of the utilization of the soil and water resources of the Southeastern United States." This great agricultural area of our country has been struck by serious droughts during the past few years and also by adverse weather conditions resulting in increased soil erosion. This legislation is needed to aid our conservationists in discovering better practices for preserving both our valuable soil and water resources.

My fifth bill is entitled, "A bill to authorize the city of Rock Hill, South Carolina, to acquire certain tribal lands on the Catawba Indian Reservation, South Carolina." I hope this legislation will receive early consideration by the Congress, as its passage is vital to the operation of the new Bowater Paper Mill near Rock Hill. The Catawba Indian leaders have agreed to the acquisition of certain land by the city of Rock Hill for the purpose of erecting a sewerage treatment plant for this new and important industry in that community.
Another bill which I offer for introduction is entitled, "A bill to 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 legislation is designed to plug another loophole in our tax laws which permits organizations to spend tax-free money to promote litigation to which such organizations are not a party.

Finally, I send to the desk on behalf of my colleague, Senator Johnston, and myself a bill entitled, "A bill to amend the Soil Bank Act so as to provide for participation by tobacco producers in the acreage reserve program on the basis of 1956 acreage allotments. Many of our tobacco farmers are facing economic collapse as a result of continuous slashes in tobacco acreage quotas. We propose this legislation in an effort to provide these farmers with a small benefit which may mean enough to many of them to keep them in America's greatest and most vital business—that of farming.