

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN THE SENATE WITH  
REFERENCE TO EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,  
AUGUST 1, 1957.

Mr. President, I want to urge the Senate to take immediate action/on S. 2504 to extend the Small Business Act of 1953, as amended, for one year, and to increase the agency's lending authority by \$75 million.

In my opinion, the record which has been established by the Small Business Administration since its inception in August, 1953, is more than sufficient justification for approval of S. 2504.

Since the Small Business Administration started actual operations in February, 1954, it has approved 7,096 business loans in the total amount of \$324,785,615. When the life of the agency expired at midnight on July 31 through failure of the Senate to act to extend it, 700 applications for business loans were pending. The aggregate amount of loans sought in these applications was \$46 million.

In a period of tight credit such as the United States is undergoing at the present time, I consider it of utmost importance that small businesses in this Nation be able to receive the assistance of the Small Business Administration.

Another phase of the agency's operations which I most heartily approve is that of providing disaster loans to applicants from areas where disaster has struck. During the past six months approximately 120 counties in 20 States have been declared disaster areas. Applications for disaster loans totaling \$2,034,000 were pending when the agency was forced to cease



operations. From its beginning in 1953 through June 30, 1957, 6,149 disaster loans were made to businesses and home owners who suffered damage as a result of hurricanes, tornadoes or floods. These loans amounted to a total of \$66,008,513.

The Small Business Administration has been charged with the responsibility of issuing Certificates of Competency to small businesses to make them eligible for certain government contracts. When the agency was forced to stop operations, eight applications were pending for Certificates of Competency involving contracts of more than \$250,000. Unless the certificates can be issued soon, these contracts will be lost by the small business concerns involved.

Mr. President, the small businessman and the small farmer comprise the backbone of trade in this country. I hope the Senate will take prompt action to restore the Small Business Administration, so that the small businessman, in his sometimes desperate plight, will not be left without a helping hand in the event he needs it.

S. 2504 should be enacted at once.

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