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Support for bill to prohibit the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages on airplanes

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON S. 4 AND PILOTS' LIST OF AERIAL DRINKING INCIDENTS, AUGUST 23, 1957.

Mr. President:

I wish to call to the attention of the Senate/the extension of remarks of the Honorable Thomas J. Lane of Massachusetts/which appears on pages A6935-38 of the Congressional Record of August 22, 1957. These remarks contain a letter from Mr. C. N. Sayen of the Air Line Pilots Association/which was addressed to the distinguished Junior Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Monroney), the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, in support of my bill, S. 4. This proposed legislation/ would prohibit the serving or consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard airplanes.

In his letter, Mr. Sayen listed 23 separate drinking incidents aboard airliners/which have seriously endangered the safety of passengers, air crews, and those on the ground below the aircraft during the past two years. The subcommittee had requested Mr. Sayen to present such evidence/so that it could determine whether the proposed legislation would be in the interest of air safety.

I hope every Member of the Senate/will read the details of these dangerous incidents on pages A6935-38 of the Record/so they can decide for themselves/whether the passage of this legislation would be in the interest of air safety. Personally, I am willing to take the recommendation of the approximately 16,000 pilots/who are members of the Air Line Pilots Association/and who have adopted a resolution calling for the approval of such legislation.
Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at the conclusion of my remarks two articles which summarize the principal points made by Mr. Sayen in his report to the Aviation Subcommittee; I also ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record a statement I presented before the Aviation Subcommittee on August 13, 1957, when hearings were held on S. 4 and S. 593; and an editorial which appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer dated Aug 23, 1957, entitled "Drunken Passengers Impanel Flaneu."

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