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Statement on Eisenhower's education message to Congress

Strom Thurmond

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NEWS STATEMENT BY SENATOR THURMOND ON THE
PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS,
JANUARY 28, 1957

Regardless of the emphasis the President placed in his
message to Congress on local control of the schools, history
has proved that control goes with the purse strings. As far
as this being an emergency program, I would like to point out
that emergency programs also have a way of staying with us
permanently. For example, the transportation tax enacted
during World War II, partly to discourage passengers unless
they were on important business, still is added to every bus,
railroad or airplane ticket you buy. That "emergency" seems
to have lasted much longer than anticipated -- about 10 years
longer than the war.

Little more than a year ago, the President's Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations advised against federal aid
to education.

It stated in its report to Mr. Eisenhower:

"The Commission believes that State and local governments
ought to, and can, take care of primary and secondary school
needs. Its Study Committee on Federal Responsibility in the
Field of Education came to the conclusion that the State and
local governments can, if they will, afford adequate educational
services..."

Senators Humphrey of Minnesota and Morse of Oregon, both
of whom served on the Intergovernmental Relations Commission
and both of whom advocate integration of the races in the
schools, disagreed with the rest of the Commission.

South Carolina has proved her ability and her willingness to provide adequately for our schools. Our State does not need or want federal money which finally would lead to federal control of our schools.

I shall work and vote against the enactment of this proposal for federal aid to education.

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