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News statement on amendment of the Taft-Hartley Act to provide state jurisdiction in labor disputes

Strom Thurmond

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WASHINGTON-- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) announced today that he is co-sponsoring a bill which would amend the National Labor Relations Act (Taft-Hartley) so as to give the States jurisdiction in labor dispute cases when jurisdiction is declined by the National Labor Relations Board.

The bill was introduced as a result of a recent Supreme Court decision which declared that States could not take over unfair labor practice cases even when the NLRB declined to act in such cases.

Present law provides that the NLRB may turn over certain cases to State jurisdiction, but it is so highly restricted that none has been ceded under this provision.

Senator Thurmond pointed out that enactment of the bill he is co-sponsoring would clear up this legal no-man's land within which no state or federal agency or court is empowered to deal with a labor controversy.

"I do not believe the Congress ever intended that such a no-man's land should exist," Senator Thurmond declared. "I believe it would be to the advantage of all parties who might become concerned in a labor dispute to have this indefinite legal area made definite by enacting this bill into law."

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