

NEWS STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON PROPOSAL
TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY, DECEMBER 7, 1957.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) announced today that he is preparing legislation which ^{would} ~~would~~ establish a National Science Academy patterned after the present service academies in order to furnish the United States with sufficient scientists to overcome Russia's apparent leadership in some aspects of scientific research and technological developments.

The South Carolina Democrat says his bill would place the academy under the Defense Department because of the vital role the academy would play in our national defense and security program. The proposed science academy would differ from the Military, Naval, and Air Force academies in the following respects: (1) it would have facilities to permit graduate study up to the doctorate and post-doctorate levels; (2) it would have authority to engage in basic research; (3) it would have a vast central library where scientific data could be coordinated and made available for scientific research and studies; and (4) selection of students would be based solely on merit without Congressional recommendations or appointments.

The proposal would require that students entering the academy agree to undertake a period of Government service similar to that now required by the service academies.

Thurmond is against establishment of an education program by the Federal Government unless it is vital to the national defense program. "I am convinced such a program of this nature is vital to our national defense program", he said, "and this would be constitutional so long as it is placed under the Defense Department. I have had the Library of Congress make a study of this matter, and this study reveals that such an academy would probably be constitutional only if tied directly to the defense program."

--END--