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NEWS STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT FOR RELEASE DEC. 22, 1957.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) voiced the opinion today that it may be necessary to completely unify the organization of the armed services into one unit in order to increase efficiency and to eliminate inter-service feuding and duplication of efforts over missile research and other vital defense matters.

The South Carolina Democrat, who is also a brigadier general in the Army Reserve, stated that an alternative to complete unification of the services might lie in the creation of a Department of Research under the Defense Department for the purpose of handling all defense research matters. Such a department would be on an equal basis with the Departments of Air Force, Army, and Navy and would have control over all the research talent and facilities now separated into the three services. The Senator indicated, however, that he preferred complete unification of the services.

On several occasions the Senator has credited inter-service fighting with contributing substantially to the United States' apparent lag in some fields of missile and other research developments.

Earlier the Senator announced plans to introduce legislation which would establish a National Science Academy to train scientists and other research experts up to the doctorate and post-doctorate levels. The proposed academy would be patterned after the present service academies. Appointments would be governed by competitive examination, and graduates would have to undertake a limited period of government service.

In discussing his ideas, Senator Thurmond said:

Inter-service fighting and feuding over missile and other research projects must be eliminated. Rivalry can sometimes be used to good advantage, but, according to reports I have received, it has greatly hampered our progress in the field of missile development in recent years. It is time that the services stopped pulling against each other and started pulling for the entire country. If there is any fighting to be done--and I hope this will not be necessary--it should be saved for the battlefield.

Additionally, we must use our defense dollars wisely and avoid duplication of effort wherever possible. I believe we can do this in defense research projects by pooling our research brains and resources under one roof with unity of purpose and effort either through complete unification or establishment of a Research Department. I believe either proposal would result in considerable savings which could be used for greater research activities. In fact, I am told that the service academies teach that complete unification is the ideal method of running a defense system.

Our national defense program is of extreme concern to me, and I am looking for every way to get the best possible defense at whatever cost that may be necessary so long as we can promote efficiency and eliminate waste, extravagance, and unnecessary duplication of efforts.

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