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Amendment proposal on jury trials in certain contempt proceedings, circa 1957

Strom Thurmond

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MR. THURMOND: Mr. President, I move that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House to Senate amendment number 7, and that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House to Senate amendment number 15 with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the language inserted by the amendment of the House to Senate amendment number 15, insert the following:

Part V—Jury Trials in Certain Contempt Proceedings

Sec. 151. (a) Section 3691 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3691. Jury trial in certain contempt proceedings

"(a) Whenever a contempt charged shall consist in willful disobedience of any lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree, or command of any court of the United States by doing or omitting any act or thing in violation thereof, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the contempt shall have been committed.

"(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to contempts committed in the presence of the court, or so near thereto as to interfere directly with the administration of justice, nor to the misconduct, or disobedience of any officer of the court in respect to the writs, orders, or process of the court."

(b) Section 3692 of title 18 of the United States Code is repealed.
(c) The analysis of chapter 233 of such title is amended by striking out

"3691. Jury trial in criminal contempts.

"3692. Jury trial for contempt in labor dispute cases."

and inserting in lieu thereof

"3691. Jury trial in certain contempt proceedings."