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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON THE PRESIDENT'S
STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, JANUARY 10, 1957.

I regret that the President has again taken occasion to urge the passage of legislation which tends to divide our people at home while we are all striving to attain a solid front to present to the world in foreign affairs. I refer to his proposals for the enactment of so-called civil rights bills and also to his plan for federal aid to school construction, both of which would further centralize government in Washington. Such laws would invade fields rightfully belonging to the States.

However, I was glad to note that he is planning to propose new legislation in his Budget Message for the purpose of improving conditions on the farms. My hope is that he will deal particularly with the plight of the small farmer.

Other points in his message which concern me are: whether the United States should amend its immigration laws at a time when there is such an emotional appeal because of the tragedy which has taken place in Hungary; also, whether we should join the tariff-reducing Organization for Trade Cooperation when our textile industry is faced with such difficulties.

I do concur with the President in the idea that some action should be taken by the Congress to make clear to the world that we intend to stand by our friends in other countries. The world has grown so small that isolationism cannot prevail. Either we must lead in world affairs or some other country will do so. The only other country able to lead is Russia. I hope a resolution will finally be formulated which I can support whole-heartedly.

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