

RADIO SCRIPT

SENATOR THURMOND'S RADIO SCRIPT RECORDED JANUARY 17, 1957.

MY GOOD FRIENDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA: I am pleased to be speaking to you each week over this radio station/during the present session of the United States Senate. I am deeply grateful to this radio station for having been so co-operative/as to make it possible for me to report to you by radio.

We are living in eventful times and I shall try each week/to talk with you about the interesting things which are taking place in the Senate -- especially with regard to matters affecting South Carolina.

I have been disturbed by the efforts of "political liberals" in the Congress/to enact so-called civil rights legislation. Again this year in the Senate/a number of bills have already been introduced under the sponsorship of both Democrats and Republicans.

The President, himself, in his State of the Union Message, urged the passage of federal laws on the subject of civil rights. Also, the President joined with liberal elements in the Congress/in advocating again the passage of a law to provide federal aid to school construction.

Our State has all the legal authority necessary/to protect the civil rights of all our people of all races. This subject is not one on which we will permit Federal meddling. But it will require ~~all~~ the co-operation of ^{all} Southern Senators/and of friends in other sections of the country to prevent the enactment of civil rights legislation.

We will have to fight constantly and hard/to keep our political enemies from being successful in their efforts/to impose the dictates of the Federal Government on the States.

As far as federal aid to school construction is concerned, I think the President should have recommended a further reduction in the national debt/instead of asking the Congress for \$451,000,000/ to dole out to the States. This could be the opening wedge to Federal control of education.

When a national government can control the thinking of the people of a country -- as Hitler did, and as the Communists are doing today -- that government can subjugate the people to dictatorship.

The best way to keep this from happening in the United States/is never to take the first step/on the road to surrender of States Rights in the field of education.

Speaking of civil rights, I am proud to say that I am a co-sponsor of a certain civil rights resolution. But this one is to restore the civil rights of General Robert E. Lee.

General Lee never received a presidential pardon after the War Between the States, although he applied for one on June 13, 1866. When he died on October 12, 1870, General Lee still could not hold any civil or military office/or serve on a jury.

January 19 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of General Lee, and the resolution which I am co-sponsoring, with Senator Capehart of Indiana and Senator Byrd of Virginia, would post-humously restore General Lee's civil rights. This is one civil

rights bill that OUGHT to pass -- and I hope it will.

Now a word to the veterans: I have joined Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas/in introducing a bill to make it easier for veterans/to secure home loans. If private financing is not offered to a veteran within 20 days after he applies to the VA for a loan, then the VA will make a direct loan out of a new fund to be set up.

Private enterprise would have the first opportunity to provide the loan to the veteran. If private enterprise did not accept his application, the veteran still has an opportunity to obtain a loan from the VA.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington. I'll be back again next week with comments on events in the United States Senate.

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