

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR TELEVISION FILM CLIPS  
ON SUBJECT OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION PENDING IN THE CONGRESS,  
FEBRUARY 26, 1957

In appearing before the Civil Rights subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, I strongly opposed the so-called civil rights bills.

"Tyranny is just as bad by any other name," I told the Committee.

"In other countries tyranny has taken the forms of fascism, communism, and absolute monarchy. I do not want to see it foisted on the American people under the alias of 'civil rights.'"

With reference to the proposal for the establishment of a civil rights division in the Department of Justice/and the addition of another Assistant Attorney General, I told the Committee there was no need for either.

In connection with that proposal, another bill would provide for the Justice Department to secure injunctions and to enter into civil suits against individuals charged with engaging in or being "about to engage in" acts violating civil rights laws.

This proposal, I told the Committee, would permit the Justice Department to go into the States and meddle with private business, police elections, intervene in private lawsuits, and breed litigation generally. They would keep the people in a constant state of apprehension and harassment. Liberty quickly perishes under such government, as we have seen it perish in foreign nations.

I pointed to the lack of need for anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills. As to the so-called proposal for a Fair Employment Practices Commission, I stated that such a plan should be called a Forced Employment Practices Commission.

Don't be panicked by the pressure groups, I urged the Committee.