

TELEVISION FILM CLIP SCRIPT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON
BILL TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF TRIAL BY JURY, MARCH 28, 1957.

One of the great American heritages is the right of trial by jury, but none of the advocates of so-called civil rights/^{bills}has sought greater protection of this fundamental right.

I am now co-sponsoring with Senators Eastland and Byrd a bill which would give every citizen's right of trial by jury greater protection.

This bill would assure a trial by jury for persons cited for contempt of court injunctions. Persons cited for contempt in labor dispute cases already enjoy this right. They are entitled to it and I see no reason why every citizen should not have the same protection.

This bill also would guarantee trial by jury even when the United States entered the case by substituting itself for the original complainant -- as it did in the Clinton, Tennessee, school case. Under the present law, a citizen loses his right of trial by jury when a criminal contempt case is brought or prosecuted by, or on behalf of, the United States.

The Constitution guarantees a person charged with the most heinous crime the right of trial by jury. I believe a person charged with contempt of a court order or injunction should have at least the same protection. That is what my bill would guarantee.

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