MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

On several previous occasions I have mentioned my serious concern over the Federal Budget. Every day I am hearing from people, by mail and in personal conversations, on this subject.

The views which have been expressed to me convince me that the people of this country want to see Congress reduce the proposed budget for 1958. I am further convinced that the people want to see a start made toward reduction of the public debt.

I was greatly impressed by a letter I received during the past week from the students of St. Johns High School in Charleston County. They declared that, in their opinion, the "budget must be drastically cut."

But the thing that impressed me most with this fine letter was that the young people of this country are becoming more aware of the vital import this budget has for them in the future.

They are looking to Congress collectively and to the members individually to do something to bring about greater economy in the Federal Government. These young people realize that excessive spending today by the Federal Government means they will have to pay the bills tomorrow. We know this is true because today we are paying the debts of the post-war days of World War II, as well as the costs of the war itself.

The students who wrote the letter stated that their faith, with reference to Congress, is being quite shaken. I can well understand that view if Congress fails to reduce the budget.
I am going to do everything in my power to restore the faith of these young people in their government by trying to chop-off and chop-out of the budget as much non-essential spending as possible.

When the one and a half billion dollar rivers and harbors authorization bill came up in the Senate, nearly 400 million dollars were for projects which had not been approved by the Army Engineers or by the Bureau of the Budget. I voted first to send the bill back to the Public Works Committee until recommendations could be received as to whether the projects were essential or not. But the Senate voted against sending the bill back to committee, so then I voted against the bill.

I could not see any justification for authorizing the spending of 400 million dollars which had not been recommended by the appropriate agencies of the Government. There is no need to have those agencies if we do not take the time to receive their advice on such matters.

Dollars today will only be worth dimes tomorrow if we do not stop spending more each year in times of prosperity and thus adding to the spiral of inflation.

I am confident the American system of government cannot be destroyed from outside. I do not want to see it destroyed from within by prodigal spending.

Now let me discuss another subject briefly with you.

I have joined as co-sponsor of a resolution which would submit to a referendum the Constitution so as to provide for equal rights under law for the women of this country.
Women outnumber men by 1,030,000 in the United States, according to the 1950 census. Women have attained many positions of responsibility and prominence by their ability, courage, and hard work.

I feel that the time is over-due for them to be recognized in our Constitution, by legal amendment, as having all and equal rights under the law with men. There are a number of co-sponsors of this resolution and I hope that it will be approved.

Now let me say a word to farmers. The deadline for signing contracts to enter land in the conservation reserve division of the Soil Bank Program is April 15. If you know anybody with land eligible for the conservation reserve, remind them of the April 15 deadline.

During the past week, South Carolinians in Washington have been enjoying having their Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Ann Morrison of Georgetown, in the city for the annual festival.

Miss Morrison is the daughter of Senator and Mrs. James B. Morrison, this is Strom Thurmond in Washington. Thank you for listening and this station for making this time available each week.

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