This is Alex McCullough, Senator Thurmond's Administrative Assistant. The Senator has a severe case of laryngitis and has asked me to give you his views on legislation pending in the Congress.

Every year the members of Congress have to face and pass in some form the appropriations bills to provide the funds necessary to operate the Government and to carry on the various functions established under our laws. Each year, of course, many other kinds of bills are introduced in the Senate and the House. Most of them never get out of the Committees to which they are referred.

But regardless of other bills and their fates, the members of Congress know that each year will bring them face to face with the problem of approving appropriations to meet the budget.

Senator Thurmond believes it has been a long time since so many people all over the nation have taken as much interest as now in the appropriations bills and the budget. This year it is quite evident that members of the Congress are hearing from the folks back home about the need for greater economy in Government.

Senator Thurmond thinks this is a healthy sign because when the people take an interest in government economy, it forces members of Congress, who might be inclined to spend more and more, to stop and take a second look at the size of the budget proposals. It will also make them less eager to continue wasteful spending overseas and in setting up ambitious new programs.

In Senator Thurmond's opinion, cutting the budget is the chief interest of people generally over the country.

As yet, the Senate has not passed any of the appropriations
bills. It will be possible to reduce something from each bill, if a majority of the Senate and House vote to do so.

Senator Thurmond intends to vote for reductions wherever he believes it possible to do so without endangering our national defense and without hampering necessary programs of the Government. He does not believe this is the time to approve new programs and consequent new spending.

Sometimes Senator Thurmond considers it more important that certain legislation be stopped than for any legislation to be passed. The best legislation in some cases is no legislation.

Certainly, it is more important to prevent the passage of the so-called civil rights bills, the federal aid to education bill, and some phases of the immigration bill than to pass any bills at all. Several times previously Senator Thurmond has mentioned all of these bills and I shall not go into detail about them at this time.

However, the Senator considers the budget -- the appropriations bills -- and the undesirable bills I mentioned as the most important matters pending in Congress. Of course, there are many other important matters to be considered, but none compares with the civil rights, aid to education, and immigration bills.

Senator Thurmond's main goal at this time is to do everything in his power to cut the budget of almost 72 billion dollars and to prevent the passage of those other bills.

South Carolina and the entire South should be proud of the fact that John C. Calhoun was chosen by the Special Senate Committee as one of five outstanding Senators whose portraits will be placed in the Senate reception room.
Calhoun served his country and his State so well that his many contributions caused him to be one of the unanimous choices of the Committee. As a member of the House and the Senate, as Vice President and as Secretary of War and Secretary of State, Calhoun served brilliantly. Senator Thurmond is proud to have nominated Calhoun for this honor and is convinced that Calhoun's unchanging devotion to the principles for which he fought, even at the expense of giving up his chance to be President, caused the Committee to select him.

Finally, the Senator wanted to mention that this week, May 5 to 11, is being observed as National Radio Week. He wants to commend the fine people who operate the 3,500 radio stations throughout the United States. They serve the people of America in many ways, providing religious programs, news, education, music, sports, and entertainment. In times of disaster, radio provides a wonderful means of communication in such areas.

This is Alex McCullough, Senator Thurmond's Administrative Assistant in Washington, filling in for the Senator who has laryngitis. Thank you and listen for Senator Thurmond next week.

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