Radio script of Senator Strom Thurmond for his regular weekly broadcast, recorded 1957 June 6

Strom Thurmond
RADIO SCRIPT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS REGULAR WEEKLY BROADCAST, RECORDED JUNE 6, 1957.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

Debate in the House of Representatives has focused attention again on the so-called civil rights bill. I opposed this bill before the House Committee and before the Senate Committee which held hearings on the proposals.

At this point, we cannot determine just what the outcome will be of efforts to have the bill approved in the House. However, I am glad that the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has not reported the bill out, has approved an amendment to guarantee trial by jury in the bill.

This was done by a vote of 7 to 3. In so doing the Committee recognized the need for legislation to assure citizens of the right to trial by jury. Even some of the backers of the so-called civil rights bill voted for the trial by jury amendment in the Senate Committee.

However, I want to make one point entirely clear. This amendment to the so-called civil rights bill still does not make the bill acceptable to me. The other provisions of the bill which would give the Federal Government greater authority to meddle in elections and to secure so-called "preventive injunctions" make the bill absolutely obnoxious.

The important thing about the vote in the Senate Committee is that it gives me hope for approval of a bill I introduced with Senators Bryd and Eastland. My bill would guarantee the right of trial by jury in contempt cases for all citizens, just as persons
involved in labor disputes now have trial by jury, if they so desire.

Since the Committee has recognized the principle of trial by jury in amending the civil rights bills, I hope the Committee will approve my bill which is completely separate from and independent of the civil rights proposals. Additional protection should be given to the right of trial by jury regardless of the so-called civil rights bills.

Now let me talk with you about the question that has arisen since Great Britain recognized Red China for trade purposes.

I regret that England took this step without co-ordination with the United States. It is another action comparable to that taken by England and France in attacking Egypt at the Suez Canal.

The United States should not enter into trade with communist China, even though Britain has approved such action. Approval of trading with the Reds of China is to me the placing of economic considerations above moral principle.

This country should continue to prohibit trading with Red China until the communists of that country release every prisoner of the United Nations, and until a peace treaty is secured in Korea. Our representative in Geneva has met with China communist representatives almost 70 times in the past two years, trying to reach a settlement for peace in Korea.

I have checked with the State and Defense Departments as to how many American prisoners are still being held by the communists in China. There are eight civilians. Also, 450 members of the Armed Forces are still unaccounted for after being reported prisoners during the Korean War.
The civilians — including four Catholic priests, two businessmen, and two employees of the Army — have been in jails for as long as four years. The Reds have consistently avoided answering our State Department as to whether the 450 members of the Armed Forces are alive and being held as prisoners of war.

Under such circumstances, I do not see how we can agree to consider trading with Red China until a full accounting is given by the communists and until all United Nations prisoners are released.

After that a peace treaty should be arrived at quickly. Then a decision could be made as to whether the United States should trade with China in goods which could not be converted to military uses against us. Until these things take place, we should stand firm.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington. Thank you for listening and this station for making this time available each week.

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