

(57-13)

TEXT OF A TELEVISION PROGRAM RECORDED BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND  
WITH SENATOR RICHARD B. RUSSELL AS HIS GUEST, WITH REFERENCE TO  
THE SO-CALLED CIVIL RIGHTS BILL ON JULY 15, 1957.

SENATOR THURMOND: One of the most obnoxious pieces of legislation that has come before the Senate since I came here in 1955 is the so-called civil rights bill. The able leader of our Southern block opposing the passage of this bill is the highly respected Senator Richard B. Russell of the State of Georgia. Senator Russell will you tell us the status of this bill at the present?

SENATOR RUSSELL: Well, Senator Thurmond, as you well know, there are 18 of us who are unalterably opposed to this bill -- 18 out of the 96 Members of the Senate. We are holding frequent meetings, endeavoring to devise plans, if it is possible to do so, to defeat this bill in a battle to the death. Naturally we are also canvassing every possible situation that might enable us to pull any of the teeth out of this bill. We are taking every step that's available to us to try to mitigate it, then we'll take every step that is available to us to try to defeat it. We are endeavoring to measure up to the confidence that the people of our States have placed in us. Our numbers are few, our backs are to the wall, but we have no spirit of surrender. We will fight it out to the last.

SENATOR THURMOND: Well, Senator, I want to thank you very much for that fine statement.

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SENATOR RUSSELL: Well, I want to congratulate and thank you, Senator Thurmond, for the great contribution you have made in this fight. You have made a magnificent speech and you have contributed much to our frequent caucuses and discussions. I thank you for your fine contribution.

SENATOR THURMOND: Thank you very much and the South is proud of your leadership.

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