

RADIO SCRIPT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS REGULAR WEEKLY BROADCAST, RECORDED JULY 25, 1957.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

During the past week, the South has won several battles on the floor of the Senate. We have succeeded in greatly weakening H. R. 6127, the so-called civil rights bill.

Two important amendments have been approved by the Senate. One of these amendments removed the old Reconstruction Period provision/for the use of military forces to carry out the civil rights laws. The other amendment of great importance was one to strike out Part 3 of the bill. This was approved by a vote of 52 to 38/and was a major victory for those of us who are fighting against passage of this bill.

Part 3 would have permitted the Attorney General/to use the power of civil injunctions in school segregation cases/and in other cases in which violations of civil rights laws were charged.

However, we still face a hard fight against the other provisions of the bill. It is becoming more and more difficult to hold the support of many Senators/who supported the South on earlier votes. It remains to be seen whether they will continue to do so on jury trial and other vital points/which must be settled.

We are trying to amend the bill in every way possible to weaken its effects. After that we will try with all our might to defeat the entire bill. I have said that no civil rights bill will be acceptable to me. That is still my position.

However, it would be foolish not to amend the bill in every way possible, because if the radicals and liberals should

succeed finally in forcing through a bill, we want it to be the least effective measure possible. Efforts to amend the bill are in no wise an admission that some form of civil rights legislation will be passed; it is simply getting all the insurance we can in advance against the possibility of such an evil day.

As it now stands, the bill has no provision for trial by jury /of cases involving contempt proceedings growing out of charges that some person has been deprived of his voting rights. The bill still contains a provision for the establishment of a new civil rights division in the Department of Justice, with an additional Assistant Attorney General to handle such cases.

*- since part III has been cut out -*  
To me the potentially most dangerous of all <sup>1</sup> is Part 1 of the bill, still untouched, and providing for a Commission to investigate civil rights matters.

This Commission would have the power to subpoena witnesses to appear before it and testify. It would also have the authority to go into a federal court and secure an order to force a person to appear before the Commission. If the witness failed to comply with the order, he would be subject to being put in jail without the right to a trial by jury.

Since the duties of the Commission would consist of studying and collecting "information concerning legal developments/ constituting a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution," it could use this power to try to meddle with our public schools -- to intimidate school officials.

Still another vicious provision of Part 1 /would permit the Commission to use voluntary and uncompensated persons to perform

the work of the Commission.

Of course, the only persons who would want to work free/ would be members of such organizations as the NAACP and the ADA. I feel sure there would be more than enough volunteers of this kind to fill all the jobs of the Commission, no doubt at the same time receiving pay from the NAACP and being bound to carry out its orders.

Their purpose would be to bring about the mixing of the races -- not to report the real progress that is being made.

So, my friends, there is much yet to be done on this so-called civil rights bill, H. R. 6127. It is like a many-headed monster. You cut off one head and another turns to seize you. The only way to prevent ourselves from being injured by the civil rights monster/is to defeat it entirely. That is what my colleagues of the South and I/are striving to do.

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

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