7-31-1957

Script of television film clip by Senator Strom Thurmond, 1957 July 31

Strom Thurmond

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The so-called civil rights bill which is pending in the Senate would place a mortgage on the freedom of every citizen, marked "payable on demand at election time to the Attorney General of the United States."

Part IV of the bill seeks to accomplish two things:

First, to prevent jury trials by instituting civil actions in voting cases which, if any wrong doing has been committed, should be tried under our criminal laws.

Second, in the event a contempt is proved to involve a criminal action, to deprive the defendant of a trial by jury, by making the United States a party to the case.

H. R. 6127 would not strengthen the rights of individuals. It would strengthen the bureaucratic power of the Attorney General. It would grant him license to meddle in every election held in every precinct of this Nation, if he chose to do so.

Senator Norris, speaking against just such use of the law in 1930, declared:

"I wonder if a suffering people, whose forefathers fought for liberty, are going to give up the idea of it in this day and age... and submit to injunction made law."

I do not believe the people will ever submit to injunction made law, and I shall continue to fight against all such legislation.

- END -