

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) WITH REFERENCE TO
COMPROMISE ON SO-CALLED CIVIL RIGHTS BILL, AUGUST 23, 1957.

I do not favor the civil rights compromise. I believe it is entirely wrong to make any concession on the jury-trial amendment or on any other part of the bill. It was already too strong. The jury-trial guarantee was approved by the Senate as a matter of principle, not a matter of degree.

The severity of the penalty has nothing to do with whether or not a person should have a jury trial. The Constitution specifically provides for a jury trial in all criminal cases and the Constitution cannot be compromised.

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