Washington, September 7, 1957--Thousands of congratulatory messages have poured into Senator Strom Thurmond's office commending him on his 24-hour address on August 28 and 29 against the so-called civil rights bill.

The heaviest support for the Senator's position came from Hickory Grove, South Carolina, a rural community in York County. The South Carolina Democrat received a petition from residents of this community which contains 352 names. The petition had the following message for the Senator:

"We the undersigned wish to thank you for your stand against the civil rights bill and the wonderful way in which you proved it to the nation."

Thurmond expressed appreciation for the strong support given him by the Hickory Grove residents and the thousands of others from South Carolina and all over the country. He said he has already answered most of the messages with personal letters.

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