Hundreds of Whitmire residents have written Senator Strom Thurmond to express their concern over a proposed reduction in the strength of the National Guard, Senator Thurmond has reported.

Plans now under consideration in the Department of Defense would result in cutting the strength of the Guard nation-wide from 400,000 to 360,000 men during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1959.

Senator Thurmond has pointed out that six National Guard Divisions can be maintained for the same cost as one regular Army Division. He advocates building strong National Guard and Reserve units around a compact, well-equipped nucleus of Regular Army professionals.

The South Carolina Congressional Delegation has joined in writing a strong letter to the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate protesting any reduction in the strength of the National Guard.

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