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OFFICE OF SEN. STROM THURMOND  
447 Senate Office Building  
Ext. 5972

I earnestly hope that the Senate will not take the rash step of altering the present rule which permits freedom of debate.

One of the things that has made the Senate the greatest deliberative body in the world is the fact that every Senator has the right to talk things out before the country. He has this right whether he speaks for a large state or a small one, whether he is with the majority or represents a minority composed only of himself.

To change the rule to permit cloture by a simple majority instead of by two-thirds of the full membership of the Senate would be to impose a form of gag rule entirely foreign to the traditions of the Senate.

The whole motivating spirit behind our Constitution was to protect the people from the tyranny of unchecked majority rule. To permit cloture by a simple majority would be to greatly weaken the Senate's strength as a brake on hastily conceived legislation.

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