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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today introduced a Joint Resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to undo a recent decision of the Supreme Court.

The Amendment would restore the interpretation of the double jeopardy rule which was in effect before the Court's decision in Green v. United States last December 16. Thurmond said that the 5-4 decision "rationalized the release on society of criminals about whose guilt there can be no doubt."

The case came to the Supreme Court from the District of Columbia, where William Green, after being indicted for arson and first degree murder, was found guilty of arson and second degree murder. Green asked and was granted a second trial, at which the jury found him guilty of first degree murder. The Supreme Court ruled that this second conviction was in violation of the double jeopardy provision of the Fifth Amendment, and held that Green could be punished only for arson.

"Thus," said Thurmond, "the Court not only fabricated an intent of Congress in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, but also again ignored the wisdom and legal scholarship of the great Supreme Court justices of the past by flagrantly violating the laudatory principle of stare decisis."

He also urged Congress to enact other measures to curb the Court's "legislative activities," which, he said, "present the gravest problem confronting this country today."

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