

HOLD FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY, JUNE 11, 1958, 1:00 P.M.

BATESBURG, S. C., June 11 -- Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-SC) charged here today that the foreign aid program is "wrong in its conception, and ... has been bungled in its execution."

Speaking at the first annual Batesburg-Leesville poultry festival, Thurmond delivered a blistering indictment of the foreign aid program, which won Senate approval last week.

Pointing out that the program is intended as a means of combatting Communism, the Senator said that "at times, we seem to be steering a course directly toward the shoals and reefs of Communism."

The South Carolina Democrat was particularly critical of proposals to offer American economic assistance to Communist countries. "I contend that aid to a Communist nation amounts to giving aid and comfort to the enemies of this Republic," he said.

Thurmond said that the original Marshall Plan for the restoration of Western Europe worked well but that the "global program" which followed it "has not worked well." He recommended that the military assistance program be limited to tried and true allies of the United States and that economic aid, if necessary, be granted only on a loan basis.

He declared that the military aid program has been "sadly mis-managed" and that "indiscriminate economic assistance has failed to contribute to the security of the United States in proportion to its cost to the American taxpayers."

Charging that the foreign aid program has interfered with the domestic economy, Thurmond said:

"Our foreign aiders have poured millions of dollars into overseas reclamation projects which will make it possible for foreign countries ... to compete with our own farmers ... They have also helped set up textile and other industries in countries where low-wage competition can have further adverse effects on domestic employment."

Thurmond said that \$70 billion has been authorized or spent for foreign aid and other "give-away" programs since World War II.

The Senator also took the occasion to laud the poultry growers for being among the pioneers in South Carolina agricultural progress.

"Throughout the State of South Carolina," he said, "we are now witnessing a revolution in agriculture. We have discovered new possibilities in poultry, soy beans, truck farming, tree farming, and cattle raising. I have followed these developments with great interest, because I believe that the future of the South Carolina farmer depends, to a large degree, on his ability and willingness to explore new and progressive adventures in agriculture."

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