

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, JANUARY 9, 1958.

I was pleased with the President's overall message, although I disagree with some of his specific proposals.

I agree with his statement that we must insure our safety through strength and that we must build a genuine peace. He was also correct when he stated that Communist imperialism is the threat to our safety and to the hope of a peaceful world.

I was glad to notice that the President indicated in his message that he favors some form of unification of the Armed Services. I hope that his subsequent message on defense reorganization will support my proposal for complete unification of the Armed Services. I hope that his subsequent message on defense reorganization will support my proposal for complete unification.

As usual, I disagree with the President's foreign aid remarks. He stated, however, that his proposals for future economic aid would stress a greater use of repayable loans through funds generated by the sale of surplus farm products and the Export-Import Bank.

I share his interest in mutual trade but only to the extent that we do not permit low-wage imports to jeopardize our domestic industries and the jobs of the many Americans employed therein.

I am wary of the President's proposal to boost education and research efforts through federal aid grants because I am opposed to general federal aid to education, which will lead to federal control. I am vitally interested in improving our national defense program in the fields of education and research

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in such a way that we will not violate the Constitution. I introduced a bill today to establish a United States Science Academy, and I shall have other proposals to present at a later date.

I believe that by wise spending and a tightening of the belt in some areas, we will be able to provide necessary defense funds without increasing the already heavy tax burden. We must spend, however, whatever funds are necessary in order to maintain a strong and adequate defense establishment, which is essential to our existence.

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