

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND TELEVISED FEBRUARY 7, 1958

The purpose of my Armed Forces unification bill is to form an organization for our military establishment that will help, rather than hinder, the process of decision-making.

Under our present system, it is becoming increasingly difficult to decide which of the individual services should be assigned the new roles and missions that come with new weapons technology. The present system encourages inter-service rivalry, and forces on the Secretary of Defense the unpleasant and time-consuming duty of arbitrating and controlling these rivalries.

I propose to remove departmental status from the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air, and to organize a Land Service, Sea Service and Air Service under the authority of the Secretary of Defense. I also propose to set up a new Research and Development Service to perform functions now widely scattered among Defense Department Agencies.

Such a plan will greatly improve the efficiency of the whole military establishment.