STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND RECORDED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RADIO STATIONS, FEBRUARY 20, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The same snow-storm that struck most of South Carolina during the past week made surface travel in Washington hazardous, and handicapped most government operations. However, the Senate was able to get in a full week's work, and some of the developments were quite significant.

As far as my own legislative program is concerned, last Wednesday was a red-letter day. My Senate resolution calling on the Federal Communications Commission to hold off on its trial of pay television won the approval of the Senate Commerce Committee.

A good many people in Washington agree that the test in the Commerce Committee was the major hurdle for this resolution against pay television. All of the members of the Senate are receiving a large volume of mail from their constituents urging them to help in keeping the airwaves free for public use, and the chances for favorable action on the floor look quite good.

Actually, I believe that the passage of this resolution will effectively stop pay-TV for a long, long time. However, I also have pending a bill to prohibit pay television permanently. The Commerce Committee has agreed to hold early hearings on the bill.

I am still spending a great deal of time in working for additional Soil Bank funds for South Carolina cotton farmers. I contend that the Soil Bank plan was set up for the benefit of
all of the farmers and that there is an implied promise that
all farmers will have an equal opportunity to take advantage of
its provisions. Memorials from the South Carolina legislature
on the subject of the Soil Bank have been presented to Congress,
and I am in constant contact with the appropriate people in the
Department of Agriculture and on Capitol Hill.

Another matter that requires constant attention is that of
maintaining the strength of our National Guard and Reserve Units.
It would be the height of folly to put all of our trust in a
long-range missile program. We need the missiles, of course,
but we also need a strong ground force. The economical way to
have a ground force that is always prepared for emergencies is
to have a strong National Guard and Reserve program.

During the past week, the Pentagon released funds for the
construction of two National Guard armories in South Carolina.
This is a good sign. I hope we will be able to get more funds
released in the near future.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is beginning hearings on
Senator Jenner’s bill to limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme
Court in several areas having to do with the prosecution of
Communists and other subversives. I have asked that the
Committee also take up a bill of mine, introduced last year,
which would limit the Supreme Court’s jurisdiction in two fields —
the right of a state to have its own anti-subversive laws, and
the right of a state to operate its own public school system
without federal interference.
Congress has the right, under our Constitution, to limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. When the Court begins to interpret laws in a manner contrary to the intent of the Congress that passed them, it becomes the duty of Congress to spell out the powers of the Court in unmistakable fashion.

I am very glad to see Congress making a start in this direction.

I am preparing a number of bills for introduction in the Senate. I will discuss them with you on this program as they come up.

My time for this week is up. I wish to thank this station for granting me this time, and I thank you for listening.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

-END-