STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, MARCH 20, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

Two events have profoundly influenced Congress in its deliberations this session.

At the beginning of the session, the most urgent problems confronting the nation appeared to be those posed by the ascension of the Soviet sputniks. The appearance of these Russian earth satellites brought about a re-examination of our national defense position. The sputniks also created doubts in many minds as to the adequacy of our educational system.

National defense and education still command the attention of Congress. In the last several weeks, however, the problem of the recession has demanded at least equal attention. Congress has been studying a wide variety of proposals aimed at stimulating the economy.

In some ways, these pressing problems are all inter-related. If we have prosperous times, with a high national income, it will be easier to find the large sums of money that are necessary to keep our defenses strong. And if the American people raise the level of education in this country, the increase in the number of skilled brains and skilled hands will be helpful in many ways. Not only is education valuable in military technology, but it also develops skills that are essential in keeping American industry in its position of world leadership.

I have said many times over that I do not believe in Federal
aid to education. In the long run, Federal aid means Federal control. At the same time, there are ways that the Federal government can properly play a part in raising the level of education in this country.

My bill to provide an income tax credit of $100 for college students is an example of the kind of legislation that bears on the pressing and inter-related problems of national defense, national prosperity and education.

First, it is designed to give tax relief to the parents of students at colleges. The cost of an advanced education has increased tremendously over the past few years. Parents who began saving years ago toward the education of their children now find that their savings are insufficient and their children's education must be paid for from regular income.

The second purpose of the bill is to provide an additional incentive for parents with limited financial means to make a greater effort to provide themselves and their children with a higher education.

Third, this tax would act as a stimulant badly needed for our economy. The estimated annual loss in revenue to the Federal government is $190 million, which amount would be spread among consumers throughout the country.

The bill is written so as to permit school teachers who spend at least six weeks in summer courses to obtain the $100 tax credit.

To my thinking, this would be a more direct approach to the education problem we now face than the proposal to give Federal
scholarships to deserving students. The tax credit plan has the advantage of involving much less administrative expense to the government.

Further, giving a tax credit does not involve the Federal government, in any way, in the business of regulating and controlling the schools.

The Navy is to be congratulated on the successful launching of its Vanguard test satellite. This satellite is, in some respects, the most advanced device of its kind. It will be followed by larger satellites, even more remarkable. But we must not make the mistake of resuming our complacency with respect to science and national defense. The situation demands the best effort of every American.

My time for this week is about up.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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