STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO
BROADCAST, RECORDED MAY 8, 1958

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

Some of the most significant legislation being considered
at this session of Congress is now being studied by the Senate
Labor Committee, of which I am a member.

One important piece of labor legislation has already
been approved by the Senate. This is the bill requiring the
custodians of welfare and retirement funds to make an accounting
of the way in which these funds are handled.

The chairman of the Labor Committee and the chairman of
the subcommittee which has been investigating racketeering in
labor unions have agreed to report to the Senate on legislation
designed to guarantee democratic procedures in labor unions by
June 10. We are seeking to draft such legislation in such a way
that it will be fair to labor, fair to business, and fair to
the general public.

With this in mind, I have introduced a bill which would
reverse the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Hutchison
versus United States, decided in 1941. In this case, the Supreme
Court fabricated a non-existent intent of Congress that labor
unions, for all practical purposes, should be exempt from
anti-trust laws.

If my bill is enacted, the Courts will be able to move
to prevent unions from engaging in restraints of trade which
are not necessary for legitimate functions of labor organizations.
The practices at which this bill is aimed include unlawful secondary boycotts, price fixing, exclusion of products and services from the market, elimination of new processes and developments, and restrictions on production.

Such restraints of trade are unlawful now if engaged in by any individual or group other than a labor union.

It is inconsistent with American principles of justice that one group should continue to enjoy this immunity to the detriment of society.

In recent years, labor unions have acquired great economic powers. In many industries, they have eliminated, for all practical purposes, any effective competition at either the production or marketing levels. In some industries, dominant unions have the power to decide what firms may do business and what firms are to be put out of business.

I have also introduced a bill to give individual employees the right to sue labor unions for damages resulting from unfair labor practices. Employers now have this right, and it should apply equally to employees.

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The Senate has taken action on another legislative matter of particular interest to South Carolinians. The proposal to have the Senate Commerce Committee make a thorough study of the problems afflicting the textile industry has been approved.

The industry has been having serious troubles since the end of World War II. South Carolina was not adversely affected as early as some other textile States, but our State is now
sharing the general decline in textile business. Since 1951, textile employment in South Carolina has declined by more than 12,000 jobs, from about 140,000 to less than 128,000.

This loss of employment in the textile industry has a depressing effect on business of all kinds, and the reduction in the rate of cotton consumption intensifies the problems of the cotton farmer.

I believe this Senate study can be the basis for legislation of permanent benefit to the textile industry and the entire American economy.

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

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.