

75-58
STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY
RADIO BROADCAST, MAY 22, 1958

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

It seems to be continually necessary/to defend the South against slurs cast upon it/by persons outside the area/who are intent on meddling with Southern affairs.

Several days ago, I took the Senate floor/to answer an untrue statement made by former Senator William Benton/of Connecticut. Senator Benton, arguing for federal aid to education, stated that during periods of war crisis, Connecticut literally pays in lives for functional illiteracy in the South. He stated that Connecticut youths are drafted into the service/to fill the places of South Carolina men/who are rejected because of inability to pass the mental test.

This is not true. Since the present draft law was enacted in 1948, the Armed Forces have drafted more men from South Carolina, in proportion to population, than have been drafted from Connecticut.

It is a shameful thing/that a former Senator would be so callous/as to distort the truth to make it appear/that a State is not doing its share in national defense.

That was one false statement. Last week, I felt impelled to reply to another, this one by former Senator Herbert Lehman of New York. Senator Lehman made a speech here in Washington/ before the left-wing organization/known as Americans for Democratic Action. He made this statement:

"We are losing the battle of Asia, Africa, and Latin

America/in Little Rock, Charleston and Richmond."

This is another untrue statement. It is quite true/that there has been an increase in anti-American sentiment/in many countries. One reason is that the propagandists for integration have made it appear/that the United States is an international Simon Legree/by twisting the facts/about race relations in the South.

Senator Lehman's slur at Little Rock, Charleston and Richmond/is an example. True, there was inter-racial violence at Little Rock, though the major violence that occurred there was committed by U.S. Army soldiers, and by the President of the United States/against a sovereign State and against the Constitution. But what inter-racial violence has occurred in Charleston? And when has there been any inter-racial violence in Richmond? I have not heard of any. It must exist only in the imagination of Senator Lehman. Perhaps he has been having nightmares/about the wave of racial violence that is occurring in his own backyard/and has, in his dreams, wishfully transported the locale of these disorders Southward.

If Senator Lehman is truly concerned/over the effect that race tension and race violence in this country may have/on our relations with foreign countries, he would do well to stop searching for inter-racial disorders in peaceful Southern cities, such as Richmond and Charleston. Instead, he should turn his attention/to the violence-ridden cities of his own State, which has one of the worst records in race relations/of any State in the Union.

(70-50)

It is not in the peaceful and racially separate schools of Richmond and Charleston/that students of different races stab one another in the corridors, that white teachers are assaulted by Negro students, or that roving gangs of delinquents engage in bloody inter-racial warfare. These are more typical/ of the integrated school system of Senator Lehman's own home — New York City.

I am incensed at these slurs on the South. I wish that Senators Benton and Lehman, and others, would devote their talents to improving affairs in their own States, and spend less time/in throwing verbal brick-bats at the South.

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

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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