

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) RECORDED FOR  
TELEVISION, JUNE 17, 1958.

Statehood for Alaska is unwise at this time.

The United States has never admitted a territory separated from the rest of the States by water or foreign territory. To do so now would be a bad precedent.

The economy of Alaska consists largely of activities of the Federal government, which may be temporary. It is not a sound economy on which a State government can be built, and it is probable that the State of Alaska would need extraordinary Federal aid. The demand for this aid would increase the demands of other States for Federal aid, with further weakening of State sovereignty.

Even if Statehood for Alaska were in the public interest, the bill before the Senate would be unsuitable. It raises grave legal questions concerning the withdrawal of land from State domain, and the provision granting public land to the State of Alaska is the greatest "give-away" ever incorporated in a Statehood bill.

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