STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, JUNE 19, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

A great deal of misinformation has been circulated about the labor reform bill/which the Senate passed last Tuesday, after five days and nights of floor debate. It is apparent to me that some of these misleading statements/have been issued with deliberate intent to deceive the public.

Last Wednesday, George Meany, the president of the AFL-CIO, singled out for particular attack/one of my amendments to the bill. The amendment reaffirmed the procedure established under the Taft-Hartley Act/by which the National Labor Relations Board/holds a hearing prior to a certification election -- the election which determines whether employees wish to designate a union, and, if so, which union, as their bargaining agent.

The amendment struck out a provision of the bill/which, in effect, would have allowed the National Labor Relations Board to hold a certification election/without a hearing at which the issues could be aired.

Mr. Meany asserted that my amendment was "a direct result of lobbying by reactionary groups/seeking only to frustrate legitimate union activities." Nothing could be farther from the truth. There was no lobbying in connection with my amendment.

If providing a hearing to the parties concerned, prior to a certification election, is an attempt to "frustrate legitimate union activities," then Mr. Meany's definition of legitimate union activities/must certainly differ substantially from my
definition of that term, and that of the Senate.

In debate on the bill, I also supported an amendment to permit a union member to sue for the recovery of dues used for purposes other than collective bargaining. In speaking to the Senate on this amendment, I pointed out that union funds are often used for purposes which many members would not approve. In a poll recently conducted in Lansing and Flint, Michigan, where there are large concentrations of the highly unionized automobile industry, 69 per cent of the employees said that they object to the manner in which union dues are being used, while only 13 per cent approved the manner in which union dues are used.

I know that the union members in South Carolina object bitterly to the use of union dues to support the activities of such organizations as the Americans for Democratic Action and the NAACP.

Labor unions are contributing about one-third of the total budget of the ADA. The ADA favors racial integration. It favors diplomatic recognition of Red China, and American aid to that Communist country. The ADA favors a strong centralized bureaucracy to control this country from Washington. The ADA favors total economic welfare, from cradle to grave, financed by a huge Federal spending program.

Labor unions have given large contributions to the NAACP, even though the aims of this organization are directed against the principles in which the union members in South Carolina believe.

As passed by the Senate, the labor reform bill is a move in the direction of democracy in unions. It is helpful legislation, and I voted for it, but not before I had exerted every effort, both in the Labor Committee and on the floor, to make it more
effective. I presented to the Committee all of the recommendations which came out of the investigation of union racketeering by the McClellan Committee, and I advanced other proposals of my own.

The attitude of union leaders toward their responsibilities to the workers they represent is discouraging. Unless these leaders show a greater willingness to respond to the wishes of union members, the people of the United States will lose faith in the labor movement.

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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