STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) RECORDED FOR MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, June 23, 1958.

Statehood for Alaska is unwise at this time.

Alaska is an undeveloped territory, lacking the kind of economy that can properly support a State government. Alaska would require extraordinary Federal aid, which requirement would lead to increased demands for Federal aid to all States, and State sovereignty would thereby be diminished.

We should not set a precedent for the admission of territories which are not contiguous to the United States.

Even if Alaska Statehood were in the public interest, it would not be wise to adopt a bill with as many defects as the Alaska Statehood Bill. There is grave doubt as to the constitutionality of some of its provisions.

I hope that the Senate will reject the bill, when the dangers of its enactment are fully understood.

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