STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND, RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, JULY 10, 1958

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The Senate has scheduled for early consideration an omnibus housing bill. This bill is one of the most ambitious socialistic measures presented to the Senate this year, or any year.

One of the principal reasons why I am bitterly opposed to this legislation is the public housing section of the bill, the underlying purpose of which is to promote racial integration. I have written a letter to every Southern Senator, calling attention to the hidden provisions of this bill which make it an integrationist measure.

The bill would establish a legislative policy of allowing the acquisition of scattered one and two-family units throughout residential communities. Proponents of this bill frankly admitted during the hearings of the Banking and Currency Committee that this method of "infiltration" is necessary to overcome resistance to integration of housing.

The bill advocates "social and recreational guidance" to assist families to become good tenants, and provides an $3 million windfall which authorities might use for this vaguely defined guidance. It is entirely likely that this guidance would, in many areas, take the form of an attempt to educate tenants in the supposed benefits of racial integration.

One of the most objectionable features of the bill encourages the use of public housing by middle class families who could afford
to buy or rent homes through normal channels. The apparent object of this legislation is to inaugurate a federal policy of controlling the racial complexion of neighborhoods to insure residential integration.

After I wrote other Southern Senators, alerting them to the hidden evils in this bill, a number of Senators joined to bring about a postponement in the consideration of the bill, to give them the opportunity to study it more closely.

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The Army's plan for the reorganization of its reserve components calls for the retention of all of the present 27 Army National Guard Divisions and the 10 Army Reserve Divisions. Originally, the Army had contemplated abolishing 6 National Guard Divisions and 4 Reserve Divisions. Under the original plan, it appears that the 51st National Guard Division, of South Carolina and Florida, would have been among the divisions eliminated.

The new plan is a big improvement over the old one. The 51st Division will be reorganized into modern pentomatic form, to enable it to be more efficient in the techniques of modern warfare. I have been assured by the Army that no armories will be closed and that there will be a requirement for the construction of new armories. I expressed concern that the change in organization might work hardships on some individuals and units. Army officials told me that they were confident that the readjustment could be worked out in a satisfactory manner.

Under the plan, the 108th Army Reserve Division will be retained as a training division, with no loss of its strength in North Carolina.
and South Carolina.

The Army supports the position I and other Congressmen have taken in urging that the manpower strength of the reserve components be maintained at present levels. In case the 10 per cent reduction in manpower levels ordered by the Department of Defense is put into effect, the 37 National Guard and Army Reserve divisions will be seriously under-manned.

I will continue to urge that there be no reduction in the manpower strength of our National Guard and Army Reserve divisions. In my opinion, it would be utter folly for us to reduce the strength of our National Guard and Army Reserve units at a time when the danger of war is so great in many different areas of the world.

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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