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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), RECORDED FOR TELEVISION
AUGUST 7, 1958.

A program of general Federal aid to education has been presented to the Senate, disguised as a national defense bill. The bill, with costs estimated in excess of one billion dollars, is not well adapted to our national defense needs.

Instead, it is an opening wedge for the Federal government to invade the field of education, a field in which it has no constitutional authority whatsoever.

Even if the bill were constitutional, I would object to it strongly. It proposes for the Federal government to continue its practice of exercising leadership with money, rather than with ideas.

Our educational problem is a national problem, but it is one that can be solved, in the final analysis, only at the local level. Find the solution will require new stress on the responsibilities of parents, local communities, and State governments.

Federal spending is not the answer to the problem of education.

END