

(76-31)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, AUGUST 7, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

A program of general Federal aid to education/has been presented to the Senate, disguised as a national defense bill. The excuse for this bill/is that we must improve our educational system/in order to be able to compete more effectively with the Soviet Union, especially in the fields of science and technology. However, the bill is not well adapted to our defense needs. Just calling it a national defense bill/does not make it a defense bill.

The truth of the matter/is that this bill is an opening wedge for the Federal government/to invade the field of education, a field in which it has no constitutional authority whatsoever. The Framers of the Constitution wisely recognized/that education is a responsibility of the State, the community and the parents.

The education bill before the Senate/contains a wide variety of proposals. In my opinion, proponents of Federal aid to education/have included as many programs in the bill as is possible, in order to improve the chances of having at least some of the programs/made permanent.

The bill contains a scholarship program, and a student loan program. It also provides for a program of national defense fellowships, one-half grant and one-half loan.

There are grants for equipment and facilities/for the teaching of science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Provision is made for Federal participation/in the establishment of a counselling

program, and for research and experimentation in teaching by radio, television and motion pictures.

There is a plan for a national science library, and an expanded program of vocational education.

Some of these programs may be valuable, but the bill will not contribute appreciably to our national defense. Neither the scholarship program nor the student loan program/are limited in any way/to courses of study considered critical to our national defense. Under one of these programs, a student might study social welfare work, *automobile driving*, ~~domestic science~~, or flower arranging. Neither does the bill require/that students whose education is financed by the Federal government/use their scientific training for national defense purposes.

We should not be deceived, then, into thinking that this is a national defense bill. It is, purely and simply, a program of general Federal aid to education.

The total cost of this bill is estimated in excess/of one billion dollars. It is obvious that this bill proposes for the Federal government/to continue its practice of exercising leadership with money/rather than with ideas.

There are many scholarship funds and loan funds/available to boys and girls who wish to attend college. Most of them require that the students work hard, and show a fair degree of ambition, initiative and ability. A vast program of Federal scholarships and loans/would surely stifle initiative and encourage indolence.

I recognize that there are serious deficiencies in our

educational system. I am deeply concerned about them.

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

Money is needed, of course. But we should always bear in mind that the farther a tax dollar goes from home, the less value is returned. Federal programs are more expensive than State programs, in terms of value received per tax dollar.

Federal spending will not solve our educational problems.

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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