

(77-10)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND IN INTRODUCING A BILL WHICH PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH A UNITED STATES SCIENCE ACADEMY, JANUARY 9, 1958.

Mr. President, I send to the desk a bill which proposes to establish a United States Science Academy which embraces a Library of Science.

The purpose of this bill is twofold. First, it would be a step toward furnishing the United States with sufficient scientists to meet the increasing demands of research and technological developments. Second, it would create a central filing point and clearing house of scientific data, including foreign publications.

My bill would place the science academy under the Department of Defense because of the vital role the academy would play in our national defense and security programs, and because an academy of science for purposes of defense under the Defense Department would be constitutional while there is doubt as to the constitutionality of other proposals for the Federal Government to enter the field of education. The proposed science academy would differ from the Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies in the following respects:

- (1) It would have facilities to permit graduate study up to the doctorate and post-doctorate levels,
- (2) It would have authority to engage in basic research,
- (3) It would have a vast library where scientific data could be translated, coordinated, and made available for scientific research and study, and
- (4) Selection of students would be based solely on merit without Congressional recommendations or appointments.

My proposal would require the students entering the academy to commit themselves to undertake a period of scientific service as designated by the Department of Defense similar to the post-graduate service now required by the service academies.

The science academy, in my opinion, is better designed to meet the need for additional scientific education than the various scholarship proposals for the reason that the existing facilities for scientific education are now operating at maximum capacity with no dearth of students, and my scientific academy proposal meets the need for additional facilities, as well as increased incentive for ^{exceptionally able} students. ~~In addition,~~ ^{as previously stated,} a science academy established for the purpose of providing for the national defense is a constitutional means of meeting a recognized need in this field while there is considerable doubt as to the constitutionality of other proposals for the Federal Government to enter into educational activities.

In planning this proposal, I have obtained a study from the Library of Congress on the constitutionality of a science academy. I would like to have unanimous consent to place the report of this study in the Record.

Mr. President, I ask that this bill be referred to the appropriate committee, and I hope that it will receive early and serious consideration.

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