MR. THURMONT: Mr. President, I am vitally interested in any measure in behalf of the veterans of this country. We would not have a country if it were not for the veterans.

I am strongly in favor of the bill which has just been introduced by the distinguished Senator from Alabama (Mr. Sparkman), of which I am coauthor.

First, this is an emergency matter, in my view, and I urge the Committee on Banking and Currency to report the bill as promptly as possible, so that our veterans can obtain this very badly needed housing.

Second, by reason of the Chief Executive's veto of the bill in 1957, we have already lost the opportunity to construct 20,000 housing units for our veterans in small towns and rural areas, where the need for housing was amply demonstrated in the testimony taken last year.

Third, there is no need to hold further hearings on this matter. What was true when Congress passed the bill in the last session is still true, except more so.

Fourth and finally, Mr. President, I believe that the remarks which I made when the bill was considered last year have been amply borne out by subsequent events, and I ask unanimous consent to have those remarks printed in the RECORD at this point.
MR. THURMOND: Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the distinguished senior Senator from Georgia (Mr. Russell).

Senator Russell has served in this body for a quarter of a century, and he has served ably, faithfully, and well.

I knew Senator Russell when I was Governor of South Carolina, and also prior to that time. He is held in high esteem by the people of my State.

In the fall of 1957, I was invited to attend the homecoming celebration for the distinguished senior Senator from Georgia, held in his home city of Winder, Ga. One did not have to be there very long to observe the high esteem and respect and admiration of the people of his home city and of his home State of Georgia for him.

Senator Russell has been a leader in agriculture in this Nation. The farmers all over this country have looked to him for guidance, for advice, and for counsel and help. He has served as, and has been a tower of strength as, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the Senate. Nothing is more important to this Nation and to its survival than the national defense. Senator Russell's wise counsel and advice have been of great help to the Nation in time of war and in time of peace. I do not know of any man who would have served more ably than has he in this important position, which means so much to our country.

On other occasions I have said that Senator Russell is a great patriot, a great American, and would make a great President of this country. At this time I am pleased to pay tribute to this fine citizen, this great Senator, and this great American.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND(D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR REGARDING SENATOR RUSSELL, JANUARY 13, 1958.