

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON THE SENATE FLOOR,
FEBRUARY 13, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT,

It was with a sense of profound sadness that I learned yesterday that the distinguished Senator from Virginia had reached a decision to retire from the Senate at the end of this year.

During the brief time that I have been privileged to serve in this body, I have had many occasions to observe the brilliance of his intellect, the wisdom of his counsel, and his great devotion to our ^{constitutional} ~~democratic~~ form of government.

It has been my good fortune to have had a close personal relationship with the Senator. His philosophy of government is a sound one, based on the fundamental principles that have guided this nation since its earliest days. He has always been dedicated to clean, honest government, and his career stands as a monument to the highest principles of good government.

I fully appreciate the reasons why the Senator feels impelled to retire from public life. He has had a full career of public service and is surely entitled to a period of rest. Nevertheless, I cannot help but hope that the Senator will reconsider his decision. We do not have enough men like him in public life.

Assuming that his decision is irrevokable, I think I may also assume that he will continue to maintain his keen interest in public affairs and that, from time to time, he will give the country the benefit of his views.

History will record that the Senator was one of the greatest of Twentieth Century Americans. Certainly he is second to none in his grasp of the intricate economics of government, the field which he has chosen to make his primary specialty. It is even more impressive, in my opinion, that he has become such a notable specialist while remaining so well informed in all areas of government.

The retirement of the Senator will leave a gap in the Senate that will be exceedingly hard to fill.

Former President Truman once remarked that there were "too many Byrds" on Capitol Hill. I am convinced that the country would be better off with more Byrds in the Senate and in other positions of high public responsibility.

-END-