

(77-18)

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR,
MARCH 20, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I am happy to join my colleague in presenting these memorials from the General Assembly of South Carolina, urging that the South Carolina National Guard, including the 51st Division, be maintained at full strength, and that the Bureau of the Budget release the funds Congress has appropriated for the renovation and construction of National Guard Armories.

The National Guard is an essential and vital part of our defense establishment. It provides a means for maintaining a large pool of trained men, at a relatively low cost to the government. With the tremendous expense that is involved in modern national defense, it is absolutely essential that we keep our National Guard and Reserve units at a high level of readiness.

The National Guard is a branch of our Armed Services that has the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of the citizenry in the towns and cities where its units are based. It makes for citizen participation in our national defense, in a direct and active way. It contributes, in no small measure, to the economic stability of the towns and cities.

The Armed Forces Reserves, of which the National Guard is an integral part, have always constituted the "minute men" on which we relied in national emergency. Too often these Reserve forces have been neglected so that in the crucial hour they were not large enough or well enough equipped to meet the demands of

the time. We must not allow our Reserve forces to fall below strength again.

These resolutions express the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Carolina, and, I feel sure, the sentiments of most of the people of the nation. The Senate would act wisely to follow the sentiments expressed in these resolutions.