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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR,
APRIL 1, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT,

In most cases, the best government is government which is close to the people -- local self-government. The pending amendment is another attempt to give to a Federal bureau authority which the Constitution properly reserved to the States and the municipal governments.

As we have witnessed so many times in the past, the method employed here for the usurpation of local governmental powers by the Federal government is through control of the purse-strings. I would resist such Federal usurpation even if the end result were desirable. In this instance^a/sound and fundamental principle of government, imposed by the Constitution, is being violated in order to accomplish an undesirable result.

The net effect of this amendment would be to permit a Federal bureau in Washington to determine the prevailing wage in any given community. It should be apparent that the people who are in the best position to say what the prevailing wage in a community is are the people who live and work there.

When this determination is left to people in Washington, they are inevitably guided by rigid formulas, which cannot possibly take into consideration all the factors of a given local situation.

It does no good to provide the economic stimulus of an

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expanded public works program when this stimulus is offset by the application of an unrealistic wage scale.

In my opinion, the general economic condition of our country would be better served by having no Community Facilities Act at all than to have a Community Facilities Act in which ~~was~~ embodied the Davis-Bacon amendment.

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