

(13-1)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) WITH REFERENCE TO  
S. 3778, ON SENATE FLOOR, JUNE 11, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The railroad bill which we are considering is essential for the continued existence of our rail transportation. I do not believe that anyone could doubt that our railroads are in a perilous position, and that we must take action that will permit the railroads to improve their economic health.

It is only because of the drastic condition of the railroads that I can bring myself to support this measure since it embodies a substantial increase in authority for the Interstate Commerce Commission over intrastate rates and services. The Russell amendment as amended, in my opinion, did much to delete the objectionable features of section 4, with respect to intrastate services. I am delighted that this amendment was agreed to. Section 3 with regard to intrastate rates is still embodied in the bill, however. I feel very strongly that as a matter of principle, Federal regulation should be decreased in all fields rather than increased. Responsible action at the State level can never be fostered and encouraged by additional Federal regulation. The State agencies are closer to, and better acquainted with, the problems of intrastate transportation, and I am convinced that the State agencies are, therefore, better equipped to regulate intrastate carriers in the public interest.

Only the urgency of the situation as shown during the hearings before the Surface Transportation Subcommittee could command my support of legislation containing the provisions of section 3 of this bill.

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