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News "shorts" from Washington, office of Senator Strom Thurmond, 1959 January 19

Strom Thurmond

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THURMOND DENIES RULE
CHANGE "SOUTH'S WIN"

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- While passage of the least radical of four proposed changes to Rule 22 (filibuster rule) was called a "Southern victory" by the more radical members of the Senate, Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) reiterated his position:

"It would have been better not to amend the existing rule at all," the junior Senator from South Carolina said. But he admitted that the proposal which now permits debate to be stopped by two-thirds of those Senators present and voting (rather than two-thirds of the entire Senate membership) "was the least objectionable of the proposals."

He said further, "I still believe in unlimited debate and the right of the majority of one section of the nation (such as the South) to use this as a form of veto against legislation aimed at hurting its people."

END