WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) has been given senior rank among four new members to the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee.

Responsible for overseeing the Defense Department, which spends approximately $40 billion annually (or more than 60 percent of the United States government's budget), the Armed Services Committee has an important say regarding all military installations—such as those in various sections of South Carolina.

Thurmond, a brigadier general in the Army Reserve and a past president of both the national Reserve Officers Association and the Military Government Association, is expected to make many valuable contributions to the Armed Services as a member of the committee.

REA BILL PROPOSED--Washington, D. C.

Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) is co-sponsoring a bill to return to the director of the Rural Electric Administration the authority to make REA loans to cooperatives. Such final authority now rests with the secretary of agriculture.

BRISSIE VISITS STROM

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Lou Brissie, well-known South Carolina sports figure, who is now Commissioner of American Legion Junior Baseball in the United States, called on Senator Strom Thurmond in Washington recently. Brissie, voted the most courageous athlete of the year as a result of his reaching the major leagues in spite of severe wounds suffered during World War II, lunched with Senator Thurmond in the Senate Dining Room.