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NEWS RELEASE ON ADDRESS BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) BEFORE VFW ANNUAL CONVENTION, FRANCIS MARION HOTEL, CHARLESTON, S.C., 8 P.M., MAY 30, 1959.

Charleston, S. C., May 30--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) tonight sharply criticized general federal aid to education proposals pending in the Congress as being "unconstitutional, unwise, unnecessary, and uneconomical."

The South Carolina Democrat, long an advocate of local support and control of education, voiced his views against federal aid to education in a banquet address before the annual convention of the South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In pointing out Russian progress in the field of education with approximately the same number of pupils as the United States, but with far less funds, the Senator urged that "we get more education for our dollars by shedding the frills and concentrating on the essentials." He said Russia is training 40 times more pupils in physics, 18 times more in chemistry, 15 times more in trigonometry, eight times more in foreign languages, and four times more in algebra than is the United States.

Federal aid proponents were generally classified by Senator Thurmond as being big spenders, in favor of increasing the power and scope of the Federal Government, having no regard for States Rights, and as being advocates of progressive education. He was particularly critical of the National Education Association, which he said was now constructing a big headquarters building near the Capitol, in order to pressure the Congress into approving a federal aid bill such as the Murray-Metcalf proposals.

The Senator's four principal reasons for opposing general federal aid to education were as follows:

(1) It is unconstitutional, because the field of education is reserved to the States under the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

(2) It is unwise, because it would lead to federal control and dictatorship, stifle local initiative, and the Federal Government cannot afford it.

(3) It is unnecessary, because the States can do and are doing the job.

(4) It is uneconomical because the Federal Government is more extravagant and the trip of our tax money to Washington and back extracts a sizable toll. All tax money--federal, State, and local--comes from the people. It costs the federal government more to administer any public program than it does the State and local communities.