GILBERT, JULY 4--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today pledged a vigorous fight against any so-called civil rights legislation which may come before the Senate this year, adding that he will not "submit to any civil rights steamroller to boost the political stock of presidential candidates in the Senate."

The Senator, who waged a gruelling fight against the 1957 civil rights bill, made these remarks while addressing a crowd attending the first annual Lexington County Peach Festival at Gilbert.

Calling the bills politically inspired, the Senator said, "the presidential candidates in the U. S. Senate all seem to feel that they must push passage of a so-called civil rights bill to insure their nomination and election." He said that all indications point to a showdown battle before the Congress adjourns, possibly in late August.

In reviewing the so-called civil rights bills pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Thurmond charged the sponsors of Senate Bill 810 with trying to treat the South as a "conquered province to be ruled over by a czar in the person of the Attorney General of the United States." He called the bill "punitive, flagrantly abusive, and viciously anti-Southern." He said the bill would, among other things, revive the deleted Part III of the 1957 bill which provided for injunctions and contempt trials without the right of trial by jury.

The Senator also sharply criticized the foreign aid bill pending in the Senate. He called it "extravagant and wasteful." He expressed pleasure, however, that the Senate had decided against authorizing direct borrowing from the Treasury, which he termed "backdoor spending," without following the regular appropriations procedure.
This he said, was a "great victory for the forces who advocate fiscal sanity" and increases the possibility of early action on S. Res. 81, his resolution for ending "backdoor spending" in other programs.

The Senator complimented South Carolina peach growers on their success and progress in growing peaches. He claimed the title of "The Peach State" for South Carolina.