

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Office of Sen. Strom Thurmond(D-SG)

WASHINGTON, D. C.--JULY 30, 1959--Senator Strom Thurmond today announced that President Eisenhower favors the equalization of retirement pay for members of the Armed Forces.

As a result of the Military Pay Act of 1958, members of the Armed Forces who retired prior to July 1, 1958, received less retirement pay than those who retire subsequent thereto. The 1958 Military Pay Act marked the first time that Congress has departed from the principle of basing retirement pay on the current Armed Forces pay scale. The President was quoted by Senator Thurmond as saying:

"It is my conviction that this adjustment (equalization of retired pay) should be made. My reasoning leads me to the conclusion that we should ask for the authorization next January, and in the meantime determine whether the Defense Department could absorb the cost from January 1 onward. If this is found impossible, then my next budget will include the appropriation item, as well as the authorizing legislation."

Senator Thurmond is a leading proponent of equalizing the pay of retirees and is a co-sponsor of legislation in the Senate to accomplish this purpose.

Senator Thurmond pointed out that the discrimination against the retirees has a detrimental effect on the attempts of the Defense Department to maintain a maximum number of career personnel.

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