

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF FEBRUARY 14-15, 1959 (RECORDED FEBRUARY 12, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

More and more I am convinced that continued government extravagance can lead only to the destruction of our free economy. With this in mind, I went on record opposing both the omnibus housing and airport federal aid bills, voting with the minority in each instance.

There is such a thing as false economy, where it is wiser to go in debt to purchase an essential than to do without, but in neither the omnibus housing bill nor the airport federal aid bills was this the case. Public housing which costs \$17,000 per unit is not necessary, ^{or desirable when} ~~as long as~~ private builders are constructing ^{the same} ~~for less money~~ less expensive homes at a record-setting pace. ~~And,~~ It does not make good sense to give the Federal Aviation Agency \$37 million more annually than the Administrator feels the Agency needs or can program ^{me}.

I was pleased to receive support from the South Carolina Farm Bureau for my votes in opposition to the Omnibus Housing and the Airport Federal Aid bills.

I shall continue to do all in my power to fight extravagance in Government spending, and I am presently drafting a Resolution which should assist in this fight. This Resolution, which I plan to introduce shortly, would require ^{legislative} bills which authorize contract commitment of Government funds or direct borrowings

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from the Treasury / to have the approval of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, regardless of which Committee has jurisdiction of the subject matter / of the bill. Many billions of dollars are now being spent / without this approval of the Appropriations Committee.

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I have been giving serious thought to the plight of our farmers / in considering the latest Agriculture proposals. There has not been adequate time thus far / for detailed study and consideration of these proposals by the Agriculture Committees, but it is my sincere hope / that some realistic, helpful legislation / will be forthcoming.

Free government spending, such as I opposed in the Housing and Airport bills, has been resulting in unchecked inflation. Statistics show clearly / that the farmers have suffered perhaps more than any other large group / from the evils of inflation. In the past 10 years, the farmer's costs have risen steadily / while he has received less and less for his agricultural products. This is the vicious price-cost squeeze / which is driving more families from the farms.

I pledge to our farmers / that I shall continue my efforts to curb high prices / by opposing unnecessary spending programs / that inevitably lead to inflation. I shall also support the enactment of agricultural legislation / which will make it possible for our farmers to earn their rightful share / of the national income.

The reception of the report of our special Senate Textile Subcommittee has been most encouraging. Both news articles and editorial comment in the national press have been most favorable. The most encouraging aspect of the reception given this report is shown by the round of wage increases currently being announced by the textile industry.

The J. P. Stevens Company, which has several large textile plants in our State, specifically tied its wage increase to the report with these words: "This inspiring expression from high legislative channels encourages us to go ahead with the upward wage adjustments in our various plants ... The Pastore Subcommittee report leads us to believe that something affirmative will be done to arrest the decline of U. S. textile manufacturing in recent years."

I am urging the Congress and the Administration to act expeditiously to implement the recommendations of our report, which has already generated enough confidence to provide this well-deserved increase in wages for our faithful and hard-working textile employees.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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