

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF FEBRUARY 21-22, 1959 (RECORDED FEBRUARY 19, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The Senate got off to such a fast start this year/that I have not had time until this past week/to study in detail/the many so-called civil rights bills which have been introduced. They contain many obnoxious and dangerous provisions.

There is one particular provision in the Administration's bill/which would deal a death blow to the constitutional guaranty of free speech/contained in Article I of the Bill of Rights of our Constitution. This proposal would make a criminal offense of uttering threats or communications/which interfere with Court orders on the subject of school integration, even in the absence of overt acts. This is less consideration than is given communists/who advocate violent overthrow of the government, but cannot be convicted of sedition unless they commit an overt act. The ultimate effect of this proposal/could well be to gag the critics of the school integration decisions, while leaving anyone free to criticize any other decision of the court.

If this proposal were enacted into law, the author of the current best selling book entitled, "1984", which pictures the conditions existing in a thought-controlled dictatorship/which might exist in a future year, should change the title of his book to "1959"/to reflect the date of passage of this legislation, ~~if it should be enacted.~~

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The so-called civil rights legislation/is one of several big issues facing the Congress this year. Two other important matters are our national defense posture/and the financial condition of our Government. During the week/I spoke before the annual convention of the Hardwood Plywood Institute/on both of these subjects.

There are those who say that adequate defense and a balanced budget are inconsistent, that a choice between the two must be made. This is a false assumption. Spending can be cut without injury to our defense posture. It can be cut by reducing such items, as foreign aid, public housing and urban renewal, by declining to enter the fields of community facilities and area redevelopment with Federal aid, and by rejecting any increase in Federal aid to education. Even desirable programs should be postponed/until Federal expenditures can be reduced/well within our income. We shall be playing into the hands of the Communists/ if we continue our irresponsible fiscal policy. While everyone is aware of the danger of armed attack, no such unanimity of opinion warns of the threat of internal collapse/from Government spending and the resulting inflation.

In my speech to the Hardwood Plywood convention, I made my first public statements on defense/since being named to the Armed Services Committee last month. My observations are based on countless briefings and discussions/with the nation's leading military men. My feeling is that the Eisenhower administration

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has requested the bare minimum/for an adequate defense force. I feel that a margin of safety against the probability of human error/should be allowed for, since it is our survival at stake.

My proposals call for additional defense funds for the following purposes:

(1) to insure the ability of the Strategic Air Command/to maintain at least a reasonable portion of its force on constant air alert/so a surprise attack would not annihilate our retaliatory striking force; (2) to speed up production of second generation missiles, such as the ICBM's, the intermediate range polaris system, and the anti-missile missiles; (3) to provide enough personnel, modernized equipment, and airlift capabilities for our ground forces/to enable them to deal effectively/with the "aggression of limited aims."

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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