TELEVISION FILM STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) MARCH 11, 1959.

Debate on the Hawaiian Statehood Bill began in the Senate this afternoon, and it appears that Hawaii will become the nation's 50th state. I feel a strong sentimental attachment for the people of Hawaii, but my judgment compels me to oppose Statehood for these Islands. The benefits of local self-government can best be extended to the Hawaiians by granting to them commonwealth status, which would not saddle them and our country with the tremendous problems of Statehood.

The Hawaiian Islands lie 2,040 miles across the Pacific Ocean from the North American continent. In making Hawaii a State, we would establish a precedent for creating a United States of the World instead of the United States of America.

The Islands are populated primarily by Oriental peoples who derive their heritage from a totally different source than did the great majority of Americans. This difference in heritage has necessarily resulted in a lack of understanding and appreciation of American philosophy of government and human relationships. Additionally, there are serious questions stemming from the infiltration and possible domination by Communists of Hawaii's Longshoremen's Union, which exerts a strong influence on Hawaiian politics. All these questions need exhaustive study and analysis before the irrevocable step of granting Statehood is taken.

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