

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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