STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF APRIL 4-5, 1959.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The Senate has been in recess this week, and it has been my privilege and pleasure to spend this time in South Carolina. A representative of the people who does not devote part of his time talking with his constituents will frequently lose sight of how he can best represent them. It is always refreshing and helpful to me to talk with South Carolinians. I want your views on matters of importance to you and always welcome your comments on any matter or issue.

Briefly now, I want to review what has transpired in the Senate during the first three months of 1959. The Senate was actually in session on 38 days during this period. Of course, my office is open six days a week and there are committee and subcommittee meetings and special hearings in the Senate all week long. During the early months of the year, these committee meetings are time-consuming but most important in preparing bills to be presented to the entire membership of the Senate. The major bills which have been presented to the Senate to date, and my position on each, are as follows:

(1) There were several motions to change the Senate rules, making it easier to limit debate in the Senate. I opposed all of these changes, which would enable groups hostile to the South to pass legislation without full discussion. The least-obnoxious
of three motions, one which provides for end of debate by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators present and voting, was passed.

(2) An omnibus housing bill, which will result in U. S. taxpayers having to pay approximately $84 billion over the next 40 years, passed the Senate in spite of my strong opposition. We cannot afford a wild spending spree for public housing, and even if we could, we do not need this housing. The urban renewal feature of this bill is also bad, permitting the government to have a free hand in condemning areas, razing them and then selling these areas at a loss to private contractors. I did succeed in getting a provision taken from this bill which would have opened the door for integrated housing. The House has not voted on this bill yet, and I hope that either it will not pass this legislation or that the President will veto the bill.

(3) The Federal Airport Act would give the Federal Aviation Agency $100 million per year for four years to spend in assisting States and communities in building airport facilities. This is $37 million a year more than General Quesada, chairman of the Aviation Agency, feels he needs or can use. As a result, I opposed this added extravagance, though it did pass the Senate.

(4) Extension of the draft is declared imperative by all our military leaders. I supported a continuation of the Draft for another four years. This extension passed the Senate and the House.

(5) Hawaiian Statehood was favored by most Senators, but I
opposed admitting Hawaii as a state for many reasons -- its location more than 2,000 miles from the American continent, a population which is 75 per cent Japanese, Chinese, Filipino and Polynesian, and traditions and culture very much different from those of the people in our other states. The glamour of Hawaii was too much, however, and statehood is assured for these South Pacific islands, in spite of my opposition.

(6) Area Redevelopment, which will authorize government bureaucrats to subsidize industry in areas which have been found unprofitable by the leaders of industry, passed the Senate by a narrow margin in spite of my opposition. This is a $389 million program which will not benefit the South in any way. In fact, it will help other sections of the nation to court industry away from the South with the aid of Federal subsidies. I hope the President will veto this bill if it passes the House.

As you can tell from this brief summary, the spenders are having another field day in the Senate. After the recess many additional major issues will be brought before our group for discussion. I sincerely hope that more reason than has been shown to date will prevail.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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