STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF APRIL 11-12, 1959.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

April 15 is just about upon us, and Uncle Sam is holding out his big hand to collect from all taxpayers in an effort to cover the costs of the operation of our huge and mammoth Federal Government. This is the one day in the year when taxpayers are remembered by the free spenders in Washington. They want to make sure that at least a good part of their spending sprees are covered so they can continue to vote Federal handouts to promote their political and so-called humanitarian spending schemes.

I have made it a policy to remember our taxpayers every time any spending measure comes before the Senate for a vote. That, I feel, is the proper time to give consideration to our taxpayers. I feel so strongly about this matter that I am considering offering a resolution in the Senate next week which would make every day taxpayer consideration day instead of just the one day -- April 15.

Opposing spending bills, or portions of them, is not always the popular course to follow. For every such proposal, there is a special interest group standing behind with its hand out. Pressure is applied on Washington at the time the particular spending proposal is before the Congress, but as a general rule, there is no one on hand to lobby in behalf of the taxpaying public except the judgment or conscience of the individual Congressman or Senator. The legislator is faced with the problem of having to answer to the special interest group. He may not have to face the public
for one, two, or six years hence.

Although it is much easier to give in to the special interest groups and vote liberally on all economic matters before the Congress, I shall continue my campaign to eliminate wasteful and extravagant government spending. I feel confident that the people of South Carolina want me to put the interest of the public first. In fact, my mail reflects overwhelming support of my position in favor of a balanced budget. The people are clamoring for restraint in government spending, and I shall continue to do my best to see that they get it -- not just one day, April 15, but every day of the Congressional session. This is the only way we will ever be able to reduce tax rates to a reasonable and proper level.

REA patrons will be glad to know that a bill to assure the Rural Electrification Administration director of the power to approve and disapprove loans to REA Cooperatives was passed by the Senate this week. I co-sponsored the original bill and voted in favor of the slightly revised version, although I would have preferred a stronger bill.

The labor reform bill, which comes before the Senate Monday, must be amended before it is allowed to pass. Senator McClellan, the nation's outstanding authority on misconduct by union leaders, is not pleased with the rubber tooth bill approved by the Senate Labor Committee. Neither am I. Contrary to much of the propaganda on the subject, this legislation does not involve a controversy of labor against management; it presents an issue of whether or not Congress is going to take effective action to prevent exploitation
of workers and the public by unscrupulous union leaders. It is my intention to join Senator McClellan in urging amendments to strengthen the Labor Committee bill for the protection of workers — whether they be union or non-union members — and the public.

On Tuesday I plan to appear before the Tariff Commission in support of a petition to give protective relief under the Trade Agreements Act to the large number of plywood and veneer producers and employees in South Carolina. Our domestic plywood and veneer industry has been hard hit in recent years by increased low-wage imports from Japan. Foreign imports now account for more than 51 per cent of domestic consumption of plywood products.

On that same day Governor Ernest Hollings and a delegation of other distinguished South Carolinians will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify in opposition to the so-called civil rights bills. I was the first witness to present the South's opposition to these proposals on March 18. I will be present, however, to hear the testimony of this delegation of South Carolinians in order to welcome them and lend them my full support.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.