STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF MAY 9-10, 1959 (RECORDED MAY 7, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

You have been reading and hearing recently much about the Senate's confirmation, and debate in connection with confirmation, of several top officials in the Federal government. Clare Booth Luce was appointed Ambassador to Brazil by the President, was confirmed to the post by the Senate after a stormy debate, and then resigned without serving because of indignation at the debate leading up to her confirmation; Christian Herter was confirmed as Secretary of State the very day he was nominated for the job by President Eisenhower; Potter Stewart was confirmed this week as a justice to the Supreme Court, though all "Solid South" Senators opposed his confirmation in view of his sentiments favoring integration of the races; and presently one of the biggest stories in Washington, D. C., is the debate and cross-examinations being staged in the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee Room in connection with the President's nomination of Admiral Strauss to the cabinet position of Secretary of Commerce.

The right to appoint public officials has always rested with the President. He appoints a cabinet of his choice, many of the top-ranking assistants to cabinet officers, Supreme Court justices, as well as all other Federal justices, Ambassadors to foreign nations, military leaders, etc. However, this right is qualified in the Constitution as follows:

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"He shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint ..."

We Senators aren't asked for our advice much these days by the President, but the President must have our approval before appointed officials can be confirmed to their jobs. If a Senator, or group of Senators, sincerely feel that an appointed official is not the right man for a high public office, he has the right to make his objections known to the other Senators and the public. This frequently results in delays in confirmation, and sometimes it actually results in defeating the President's appointments.

Admiral Strauss, a brilliant and dedicated public servant in the administrations of Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, has been a man of action and little tact in performing his duties. Most recently he served as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, an assignment which required tremendous ability and the making of many difficult decisions. It was Admiral Strauss who insisted that the United States should go ahead and develop the H-Bomb, even though there was much sentiment to the contrary. Strauss was chairman of the Commission when Dr. Oppenheimer was denied top secret clearance because of past associations with members of the Communist party. This resulted in much criticism from some scientists in sympathy with Oppenheimer. For these and many other reasons Admiral Strauss has been cross-examined many times in the past few weeks by the Senators on the Commerce Committee. I personally feel that Strauss is a good man and will
support the President's recommendation. I feel that, as Secretary of Commerce, he will continue to perform great service to our nation, and he has assured me that he will not permit foreign imports to jeopardize any domestic industry, such as textiles, to the economic welfare of South Carolinians.

To get off the subject of government for a few minutes, it's been a pleasure today to show baseball pitcher Billy O'Dell of Newberry, S.C., Clemson College and presently the Baltimore Orioles, around the Capitol.

Billy, I'm glad you came by the office and I want to wish you the best of luck this year.

O'DELL: Thank you, Senator Thurmond. I've enjoyed being with you and seeing the way the government operates.

Thurmond: Sometimes I'm not so sure we operate too well. How have you been getting along with the Orioles this year since that back injury last month?

O'DELL: I feel fine now, Senator. I hope to be winning a few games here on out.

Thurmond: I'm sure you will. Just remember that you're representing the people of South Carolina in the major leagues. We are all proud of you.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.