STREETMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF MAY 30-31, 1959 (RECORDED MAY 27, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

It is a genuine pleasure to have with me today Dr. John R. Heller, Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, Director of the National Cancer Institute and one of the world's foremost authorities on cancer. Dr. Heller is also a native of Seneca, South Carolina, and a graduate of Clemson College. In fact, he and I were students at Clemson together.

THURMOND: Dr. Heller, when did you first begin your work in the field of cancer research?

HELLER: Well, Senator Thurmond, I first started in cancer in 1948 on a full-time sense. Of course, as a medical student and subsequently in clinical work, I got some cancer, but I became Director of National Cancer Institute in 1948. One might say that the career in cancer research really started then.

THURMOND: Dr. Heller, I know that a great many advances are being made in cancer, and we deeply appreciate your fine leadership. I was just wondering if you would tell us some of the causes of cancer.

HELLER: Senator Thurmond, we don't know all of the causes of cancer. We know some of them. For example, we know
that arsenic will cause cancer under some conditions. We know that some of the products of petroleum will cause cancer. We know that some of the other chemicals called will cause cancer under certain conditions. We know that there are about 300 odd compounds which, when brought in contact with the human body or injected or inhaled, are likely to cause cancer.

THURMOND: So a great many things can cause cancer. It is no one virus or germ or one particular thing. Is that correct?

HELLER: That's correct, Senator Thurmond. And in connection with viruses, I think it proper to indicate that there is a growing feeling on the part of many scientists in this country and abroad that viruses probably are going to be included in the causes of some cancers. We know unmistakably and unquestioningly that viruses are the cause of some animal cancers. If and when this can be clearly established that a virus is the cause of a cancer, we are then only a step or two away from a vaccine. A vaccine, as you may recall, is responsible for the protection of our youths against polio. We have the technical know-how, we believe we have the resources, and if and when such a virus is isolated, as being the cause of cancer, a
vaccine is around the corner.

THURMOND: Now, Dr. Heller, that brings us to the cure for cancer. Will you discuss with us for a little bit the cure that is being recommended today?

HELLER: Senator, the cures which we have reside in surgery and radiation. Radiation from whatever the source might be. X-rays, cobalts, or what have you. I have hope for those individuals that cannot be cured by surgery or radiation. Medical science has come up with what is called chemo-therapy, which is chemical compounds which are useful in prolonging life. Now to the best of my knowledge, no human cancer has ever been cured by chemicals alone. However, individuals who are beyond surgery or radiation can live literally for years following a massive cancer outbreak. About 15 or 20 are now available to physicians. So that we can expect, I think, sometime perhaps in the next year or the year after that, we will have a chemical which will cure cancers.

THURMOND: Our time is about up, Dr. Heller, but I would like to ask you this. Do you recommend that people do any particular thing or not do any particular thing to avoid cancer?

HELLER: Senator Thurmond, I think the best thing anyone can do is to go to his doctor or physician. Routine check-ups, especially if he finds something is wrong with
his body physiology, such as bleeding, and that sort of thing.

THURMOND: I want to ask you this question, Dr. Heller. If the government is spending so much money for research, where is the money collected in the Cancer Fund Drives going?

HELLER: That goes to the Cancer Society, which uses 40 per cent of its funds for research, the remainder going for service activities.

THURMOND: Well, thank you very much, Dr. Heller. We are delighted to have you here and the state of South Carolina. Our people are very proud of you and the grand work you are doing. Congratulations to you.

HELLER: Thank you, Senator.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.