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RADIO INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR THURMOND AND SENATOR BYRD ON JUNE 11, 1959.

SENATOR THURMOND: My friends and fellow citizens, it is a privilege to have in the Senate Studio with me today the distinguished Senator, Harry Byrd of Virginia, one of the greatest men in this nation. Senator Byrd has been leading the fight for a fiscally sound government for many years. Yet, he is as vigorous in his arguments against unsound government today as he was when first taking his seat in the Senate in 1933, 26 years ago. Senator Byrd, you mentioned in the Senate this week of three debt ceiling increases requested by President Eisenhower during the past sixteen months. The first two increases raise the debt limit from 275 billion to 288 billion dollars. The third requested increase would raise the limit to 295 billion dollars. What is your reaction to all this increase in debt?

SENATOR BYRD: I'll say, Senator Thurmond, that it seems to me that we are getting into a very serious situation; that to further increase the debt now simply means more inflation and greater interest. But I want to say, Sir to you, that there is no member of the Senate that I have a greater respect and admiration for than I do for Senator Thurmond from the Great State of South Carolina. He is in the front lines always in our efforts for economy. He and I have joined in resolutions from time to time, and whenever the question of states' rights comes up, he's right in the front line fighting for those fundamental principles that have made America what it is today.

SENATOR THURMOND: Well, Senator Byrd, you are very kind in your remarks, and I deeply appreciate it, especially coming from such a distinguished and able American as you. I'm honored to have you on this program today, too. Now Senator Byrd, don't you think the time has come when we ought to keep our expenditures within our income?

SENATOR BYRD: I'll say, Senator Thurmond, unless we do do it, we are going over the dam of certain disaster. We have been squandering our money and adding to our public debt for more than 25 years, and I think the time has come now

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unless we stop, look, and listen, and stop these extravagant expenditures and get back to sound government and sound principles that we are in for a very serious and dangerous time.

SENATOR THURMOND: Well, Senator Byrd, I thoroughly agree with you. Senator, even when we succeed in cutting the size of appropriations, isn't it true that we sometimes leave loopholes which permit huge sums of money to slip out the back door unappropriated?

SENATOR BYRD: You are exactly right, and you are the patron of a resolution now and of which I have the honor to be co-patron to stop that practice, and it is very important that we should close up that loophole.

SENATOR THURMOND: The Senate Appropriations Committee doesn't even have a chance to act in some cases because the bills are brought from Committees to the floor in which tremendous commitments are made by the government. For instance, I remember the Housing Bill which the Senate passed back in the spring. I believe it provided for a liability on the part of the government over a 40 year period of 84 billion dollars, and the Appropriations Committee didn't even consider this bill. Don't you feel that the Appropriations Committee ought to consider any bill that requires spending on the part of the government?

SENATOR BYRD: Senator, you are exactly right, and we must first bring that reform about.

SENATOR THURMOND: Now, there is one other matter I want to mention, Senator. Last year, you and Senator Bridges and I introduced a Constitutional amendment which would hold expenditures within the income. I think that is a very important amendment. I believe you referred to it a few minutes ago, and I am sure you favor that amendment as of today.

SENATOR BYRD: I certainly strongly favor it and think it is absolutely imperative to pass it.

SENATOR THURMOND: Well, thank you very much, Senator Byrd, for taking your time to speak to the radio audience in South Carolina. We people in South Carolina

feel that you are one of the greatest men our nation has ever produced. Thank
you again, Senator.

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