STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) VIA TELEPHONE TO NATIONAL OFFICE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION AT THEIR JOINT MEETING IN COLUMBIA, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, AT 8 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION:

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be able to address you briefly tonight via the facilities of direct distance dialing from the Nation's capital to our State capital city. Being an employer myself, in that I do employ the services of a staff to help me with my senatorial duties, I am fully cognizant of the valuable service which you gentlemen perform for your employers. The work you gentlemen do in running efficient offices, maintaining sound business accounts, and supervising the personnel under your charge affect greatly the success of your employer. I commend you for the excellent job I understand you are doing.

Because of your responsible positions, I hope you will permit me to pass on to you via this means of communication a few observations on the most important duty facing the Congress today. I speak of the security of our country. In maintaining the security of our country, we must provide for a strong and modernized defense force backed up by a huge arsenal of modern retaliatory striking power. We must also continue to make great strides in missile, rocket, space, and other vital research programs. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am doing my utmost to insure that our military force and arsenal is strong enough to serve as a deterrent to armed attack from without our borders by the communist leaders of the Soviet Union.

Equally as vital—if not more so, because most of our people are unaware of this danger—is the importance of maintaining the security of our country from within our own borders. In order to cope with this sinister threat of internal collapse, which has already plunged our country into a quagmire of socialism, the
people must demand a return to the principles of constitutional government. These principles have fostered the growth and success of our great free enterprise system, and they provide protection for the basic tenets of local self-government. Both our free competitive system and the right of local self determination are vital ingredients in maintaining a secure and stable America.

There are many factors contributing to the vulnerable state of our internal security. First, there is big government, with its ever-increasing spending power; its 285 billion-dollar debt; its more than 2,100 agencies which serve as tentacles of control and regimentation; and its usurpation of power of State and local governments; and the fight for power among the three branches of the Federal Government. The march down the road to socialism is being led in our big government by the Supreme Court. This thirst for power by the Justices has merely been whetted by recent decisions favoring convicted Communists, criminals, and minority bloc groups—all of this at the expense of States Rights, effective law enforcement, and the internal security of our country against the Communist conspiracy.

Neither the Legislative nor Executive Branches are faultless either. The Congress has the power to reverse this leftward trend in our government, but thus far it has shown no inclination to do so. The Executive, by its pronouncements, recommendations, and the discharge of the duties of the leader in that branch, has shown little disposition to be helpful except where the Court or the Congress has infringed on the power of the Executive.

The proponents of a strong central government are now striving to convince the Congress to take over the two most important fields still largely under control of the States and local governments—the fields of law enforcement and education. They are advocating punitive so-called civil rights laws and general federal aid to education.
In the field of so-called civil rights, big government proponents and integrationists want to force mixing of the races under the whiplash of the Attorney General of the United States. They are trying to pass a federal anti-lynch law to duplicate and supersede state anti-lynch laws. Lynching is murder, and all states have laws against murder. If they make lynching a federal crime and thereby remove the enforcement of this law from the power of the States, the precedent will then be established for making all murders, burglaries, and any other crime fall within the jurisdiction of federal law.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has recognized the importance and the wisdom of law enforcement on the local level. For this reason, he has spoken out against legislation to give the Federal Government jurisdiction in the bombing of school or church buildings. Such action constitutes a heinous crime, which we all deplore. However, it is a crime against the State and not against the Federal Government, and it should be prosecuted at such regardless of our abhorrence for the crime.

If we permit the Federal Government to embark upon a program of general federal aid to education, this field will also be lost to the States in a short matter of time. I oppose general federal aid to education for four principal reasons: (1) it is unconstitutional because this power was never delegated by the States to the Federal Government; (2) it is unwise because it would lead to federal control, stifle local initiative, and the Federal Government cannot afford it; (3) it is unnecessary because the States can do and are doing the job; and (4) it is uneconomical, as it always costs the Federal Government more to do any job.

It may be considered "old fashioned" to oppose various legislative proposals because we cannot afford them, but it makes good fiscal sense to me. Unless we halt this wild and extravagant spending spree, we will soon reach the point where our government will be insolvent. Then, there will be no more need to worry about securing our liberties, which we prize so highly today. That day of national bankruptcy is the day the Communists are watching and hoping for. Their goal is to take over this country
without firing a single shot. The leaders of the Kremlin realize full well/that an all-out nuclear war would only result in their destruction—and they hope ours, also. Krushchev has prophesied that our grandchildren in America will live under socialism, and if the current trend continues, his prediction may prove true.

This job of protecting our internal security/belongs to each citizen. Complacency on the part of our people/is the most important weapon in the hands of our enemies. I urge you gentlemen/as leaders in your professions, your communities, and our State/to do your part to shore up our security safeguards. I can assure you that the Congress is still most responsive to public opinion, and our efforts to defend ourselves/from both armed attack and bankruptcy and internal collapse/can only be achieved/if they have the solid support of the American public.

I thank you and the telephone company/for giving me this opportunity/to bring you this message from Washington. Best wishes for a most successful meeting.