STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF JUNE 27-28, 1959. (RECORDED JUNE 25, 1959)

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The most controversial bill before the Senate this week was the Housing Bill. There were many objectionable features to this bill, which passed the Senate by a 56-31 vote and the House by a 241-177 margin. As a result, President Eisenhower is expected to veto the bill. In all likelihood, his veto will not be over-ridden by a two-thirds majority of Senators and Representatives.

My chief objection to the bill as passed was the large additional public housing program. Under the terms of the bill, 45,000 additional units of public housing are authorized, plus approximately 190,000 units not yet built under the original program authorized in the Housing Act of 1949.

Another name for public housing is low-income housing. Only families with an income of less than $3,000 per year may occupy these public houses. Their rent is comparatively small and it is determined by the amount of their income. The remainder of the money comes from the Public Housing Authority. Since the local housing authorities borrow money over a 40-year period to pay for public housing, the Federal Government is obligated to subsidize the local authorities throughout these forty years. Occupants of public housing are receiving an indirect subsidy from the Federal Government of almost $1,000 annually.
In summary, I am opposed to public housing for the following reasons: (1) it is socialistic; (2) private builders are providing adequate low-income housing for our people; (3) it is too costly to the Federal Government and the taxpayers; and (4) it is a prime target for integration throughout the South.

In addition to voting against the housing bill this week, I also voted against passage of the first appropriation bill to surpass the budget request submitted by the head of the department and the President. As reported to the Senate floor, the 4 billion-dollar appropriation bill for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Labor was $365 million above the budget request. This additional amount is enough to unbalance the proposed 77 billion-dollar federal budget for fiscal year 1960.

This bill presented an excellent example of the foolhardy attitude of the advocates of big government spending. Everyone favors spending as much as is available and necessary for vital health research done by the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Maryland. The spokesmen for the NIH submitted their request for all the money they could possibly use during fiscal year 1960. The Appropriations Committee, however, voted them extra funds which the doctors pointed out they could not possibly use because they do not and will
not have the trained doctors and researchers available to utilize any more money than the amount requested.

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I am pleased to report that the House of Representatives has now passed H.R. 3, the States Rights bill. This important legislation would prohibit the U.S. Supreme Court from invalidating State laws unless the Congress specifies that this should be done in passing a particular piece of legislation or unless there is an irreconcilable conflict between the federal law and a State law.

You will recall that the House also approved this legislation last year, and it was defeated in the Senate by a one-vote margin. The margin of victory in the House was reduced this year because of the more liberal makeup. This will also make it more difficult to win approval of H.R. 3 or S. 3, the companion bill which I am co-sponsoring with Senator McClellan and others. We shall certainly exert every effort to get this legislation passed in the Senate because it would do more to reverse the trend toward a totalitarian central government than any legislation considered by the Congress in many years.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.