STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST FOR JULY 5, 6, 1959. (RECORDED JULY 2, 1959)

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

Our country is today without an effective program for screening security risks out of our industrial plants doing vital and highly secretive work for the Defense Department. On Monday the Supreme Court in the case of Greene V. McElroy, invalidated the Defense Department's security clearance procedure for protecting our defense secrets, which must of necessity be exposed to some who work in industrial plants. The nullification of the Defense Department's Industrial Security Program presents one of the most urgent problems faced by the Congress in recent years.

Realizing the necessity of swift action by the Congress in establishing a new program to replace the one knocked out by the Court, I introduced in the Senate the following day a 19-page bill which should adequately take care of the Court's objection to the invalidated program. I have requested that the Senate Judiciary Committee hold hearings on my industrial security bill as quickly as possible so we can get the new program established before the Congress adjourns, possibly late in August.

The Court's decision in the case of Greene V. McElroy is another flagrant example of the Court's mental gymnastics which have resulted in undermining our nation's internal security in decision after decision favoring the Communist conspiracy. Contrary to the Court's rationale, there was no right of the individual involved in this case. The sole question involved was whether the Government could use any procedure
it deemed advisable in the national interest in determining who should have access to secret information.

The Government has the right to determine who, under what conditions, shall receive classified information. The loss of employment which occurred in this instance was incidental to the decision of the Department of Defense to deny such information to Mr. Greene. Since no right of the individual was involved, the procedure utilized by the Department of Defense in arriving at the decision is and was immaterial. Justice Clark wisely noted this distinction in his dissenting opinion in the case.

My bill sets up a security clearance procedure similar to the one ruled out by the Court, but mine would have the authorization of the Congress and the President. The Court invalidated the old procedure on the narrow ground that it had not been authorized by either the President or the Congress.

The Senate voted favorably this week on another foreign aid bill authorizing billions more to be given away to almost every country in the world, including Communist Yugoslavia. I again voted against this wasteful and extravagant program.

During consideration of the bill, however, the Senate was forced to take one action which gives heart to those of us who favor fiscal sanity and government economy. The proponents of the bill accepted the proposal I have advocated for blocking back-door withdrawals from the Treasury in violation of the Constitution. In Article I, Section 9, the Constitution provides that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law." This means that any authority to borrow money from the Treasury or make contract commitments, as well as direct spending, must be appropriated by the Congress through the Appropriations Committees of both houses.
The foreign aid proponents had proposed that we merely authorize, without following the regular appropriations procedure, direct borrowing from the Treasury at the rate of $1 billion per year for five years for the aid program's loan development fund. After we won the initial vote on a point of order, the foreign aiders agreed to follow the appropriations procedure with this bill. This victory gives me more hope that my resolution, Senate Resolution 81, will win approval of the Senate so we can stop back-door spending in other programs as well.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

- end -