

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR TELEVISION FILM CLIP
(JULY 8, 1959)

The Federal Aviation Agency has announced a plan to restrict the sale of alcoholic beverages on airplanes. While this is a step in the right direction, their plan will be virtually impossible to enforce. The decision as to whether a passenger is, or is not, entitled to a drink of liquor aboard an airplane is left up to the airline stewards and stewardesses. They are to determine whether a passenger is already intoxicated or nearing intoxication. This is ridiculous.

My Air Safety Bill, which has not yet been acted upon by the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee where it has been pending the past several years, is much more explicit. It would outlaw completely the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard any aircraft while in flight between two points in the United States. In addition, it would prohibit the transportation of intoxicated passengers aboard such aircraft and the bringing on board of alcoholic beverages for service or consumption aboard such aircraft.

Tragic accidents have been narrowly averted due to drunken passengers aboard aircraft; perhaps unsolved airplane accidents were not averted for the same reason. Also, it is not right to subject innocent passengers who are unable to change their seats in flight to the drinking habits of obnoxious passengers. I am pressing for action on my Air Safety Bill, S. 1432, in this session of Congress.

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