STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (R-SC) FOR TELEVISION FILM CLIP FILMED JULY 15, 1959

SENATOR: Ladies and Gentlemen, we have with us in the Senate Studio today a famous South Carolinian, Dr. James R. Killian, the President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and who has been serving as special assistant to the President of the United States for science and technology. Dr. Killian, you have recently resigned this position. I want to ask you what you feel is your greatest achievement during the time you served as the President's advisor.

KILLIAN: Senator Thurmond, may I say first how much I welcome and appreciate the opportunity to appear with you in speaking to the citizens of South Carolina, where I was born. I think that I would have to say that my most important achievement during the course of my duties here in Washington has been to bring the scientists and engineers of the United States into a relationship with government which makes the best talent we have available for advice and for all of the many problems where science comes to bear upon our security and our national welfare at the present time.

SENATOR: Dr. Killian, do you have any special advice for the people of South Carolina or the folks back home? We are very proud of you and I'm sure they would be pleased to receive any counsel from a great man like you.
KILLIAN: I think that I would respond to this kind of question this way: The great opportunity and the great need we have in the United States is to stress excellence in all that we do and particularly in our education. I think that our problem is to make sure that we are identifying and finding the talent we have in our country, that we are giving this talent the opportunity to be educated to its fullest potential. This means that we have a great obligation and responsibility to strengthen our schools in every possible way to understand that in the competition that we face down the road that we are going to have to do our best to operate at peak performance and this means that we have the best education that we possibly can devise for our people. In other words, increase the quality of our life in the United States.

SENATOR: Well, thank you very much, Dr. Killian. It's an honor to have you here today.