STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF SEPTEMBER 12-13, 1959. (RECORDED SEPTEMBER 10, 1959)

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

During the past few weeks, the Senate has been meeting late almost every night and on Saturdays in an effort to wind up legislative actions for the 1st Session of the 86th Congress. Adjournment is expected to come sometime during the first part of the week, probably on September 14th. This marks the longest period the Congress has been in session since I came to the Senate in January, 1955. In 1957 the Congress did not adjourn until September 9th. Ordinarily, the Congress finishes its legislative business during the first part of August.

As of the time this broadcast was recorded, the Congress had completed action on every major piece of legislation except the foreign aid bill and the proposal to extend the life of the Civil Rights Commission beyond its November 9, 1959 expiration date. The omnibus housing bill, twice vetoed by the President, was approved this week over my opposition.

The President had objected to some particular features of the bill, but my objections run further. I do not oppose the Federal Housing Administration's home loan guarantee program or other good features of the housing laws which promote home ownership. I am, however, against provisions in the housing bill which further expand on the socialistic public housing and urban renewal programs.
Not only are both programs costly to the taxpayers, but they also constitute an imminent danger to segregated housing. On two separate occasions I have been able to extract from housing legislation/some provisions which would permit integration of private housing areas by scattering single public housing units with a family of a different race into the once-segregated area. Now one-half of the members of the Civil Rights Commission has suggested that this "integration by scatteration" provision be put into effect by the Congress in order to speed overall integration of the races. The Commission has also, by a divided vote, urged that the President force by Executive Order the integration of all housing which has any connection whatever with the Federal Government. This includes guaranteed home loans by both the Veterans Administration and the Federal Housing Administration.

It is thus very easy to see that the integrationists intend to use every Federal tentacle of control—and believe me there are many of them—to force their will on the unwilling Southern people of both races. The danger of forced integration is not as grave or imminent in the VA and FHA loan programs as in the public housing and urban renewal programs because the Federal Government merely guarantees loans in the VA and FHA programs as against furnishing the actual money in the other two programs. Thus, I believe you can understand my opposition to omnibus housing legislation.

Both houses of the Congress have also voted to override the President's second veto of the public works appropriation bill.
I voted against the first bill and to uphold the President's veto of that bill because it ran millions of dollars over the budget and contained unbudgeted projects. The second bill, however, was trimmed in cost by cutting all projects by 2½ per cent so as to bring it within the amount originally allocated in the budget. I thus voted to override the President's veto of the second public works money bill. Still in the bill on final approval were funds to initiate a survey of the Congaree-Wateree Rivers for the ultimate purpose of making the rivers navigable from Charleston to Columbia and Camden in order to attract more industry. A new installment of money for further construction work on the Hartwell Dam project on the Savannah River near Anderson was also included.

I am preparing to fight passage of the foreign aid appropriation bill and its rider for extending the life of the Civil Rights Commission. Proponents of the so-called civil rights rider claim to have the necessary two-thirds vote to suspend the rules and make the rider secure. If the Commission is permitted by the Congress to continue in existence, leaders of the Southern bloc in Congress feel that this will help immeasurably in delaying consideration of obnoxious so-called civil rights legislation during the upcoming 1960 presidential election year when radicals from the North will be calling for Southern segregated scalps.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.