

TELEVISION ADDRESS BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND IN WASHINGTON ON
OCTOBER 9, 1959 CONCERNING THE 1959 and 1960 SESSIONS OF CONGRESS.

The 1959 session of the Congress which ended in September was a great improvement over the 1957 and 1958 sessions. The two principle issues which faced the past session were fiscal policy and labor reform. Those of us favoring a sound financial program and effective legislation to protect the public and the working people against unscrupulous union leaders were successful in both of these vital fields.

The groundwork has already been laid, however, for a difficult session next year when the Congress reconvenes in January. Proposals which are either repugnant or distasteful to the majority of the people of South Carolina will be pushed with vigor by the so-called liberals in the presidential election year.

The principle fight will probably center around the so-called civil rights issue. The integrationists have won from the leaders of both parties in the Senate an agreement on their part to call up some type civil rights bill on or shortly after February 15. They are preparing to ram through the Congress vicious legislation designed to force integration of the races by Justice Department injunctive decrees, federal aid bribery, or any other means obtainable, regardless of whether it is logical or constitutional.

I have already equipped myself for this all-out battle. I will not hesitate to use every means at my command to defeat legislative proposals which would make of our Southland a conquered province similar to that which existed in our area during reconstruction days.

Fiscal responsibility will again be another big issue to come before the Congress in 1960. You would be surprised at the spending schemes that can be devised in the Congress, especially in an election year. Not only are they costly dollar-wise, but many of them contain some carefully camouflaged principles or provisions which give further nourishment to the current wave of socialism which has been sweeping over our country in recent years. Every dose of socialism brings on more government regulation and control and less individual initiative and freedom.

Other issues waiting to be pushed early in the session by the liberals are federal aid for school construction, an increase in the minimum wage together with extended coverage to include more industries and some retail establishments, more federal housing legislation, and federal aid to unemployment areas.

It will be a difficult session for those of us who believe in States Rights and Constitutional Government.