

CONFERENCE CALL - January 6, 1959

As you ~~all~~ know, a band of liberal Senators who favor forced integration of the races is trying to get the Senate to adopt new rules to severely restrict debate.

I have just returned from a meeting of Southern Senators in which we mapped our plans to defeat this move and in which we discussed other matters of importance to the South. We reaffirmed our determination to maintain freedom of debate without a restrictive majority gag rule in order that the Senate might continue in its role as the protector of the rights of the States and as the greatest deliberative body in the world. We feel that two thirds of the membership of the Senate is a bare minimum which should be given the authority to still the voices of the representatives of the States in the United States Senate.

As a result of the hard work that has already been put into this fight--and the determined efforts we shall exert this week--I feel confident that we will be able to defeat the move to adopt new rules.