

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN OPPOSITION TO
H.R. 8860 ON SENATE FLOOR, AUGUST 19, 1960.

Mr. President, I must oppose the passage of H.R. 8860. The domestic lead and zinc producers deserve sympathetic treatment at the hands of Congress for they are unquestionably in a bad predicament. They are faced literally with extinction because of the imports of lead and zinc. In 1946 imports of lead equaled 19% of U. S. production; by 1951 imports were 75% of U. S. production; in 1958 they were 91% of U. S. production. Zinc imports have risen from 37% of U. S. production in 1946 to 119% of U. S. production in 1958. Since 1952 U. S. production of lead has declined 35%, and domestic production of zinc has declined 37%. There can be no other conclusion but that the imports of lead and zinc are resulting in the destruction of domestic production of these metals.

The lead and zinc industries have utilized every possible approach under the so-called Reciprocal Trade Act to obtain relief. That relief has been denied by a split decision of the Tariff Commission.

My heart goes out to both the producers and the employees of these mining industries. They should be granted relief. Subsidies, however, Mr. President, are not the answer.

The lead and zinc industries are but two of many of the domestic industries which are suffering from the competition of imports, which have a competitive advantage stemming primarily from the low scale of wages in the country of origin of the imports. Although many of these industries have sought relief

from the Administration and the Congress in the form of wiser administration of the trade program and changes in the basic law itself by the Congress to insure a more realistic administration, both the Congress and the Administration have repeatedly failed to take realistic action.

We have heard advocated on this floor on a number of occasions that the proper course is to subsidize with tax money the industries which are so depressed. This, to the best of my knowledge, is the first attempt to actually carry out such an unwise and unrealistic proposal. We must not adopt the approach of subsidies as a remedy for this situation for although this bill will incur an annual expense of only about \$5 million, it will set the precedent for the same approach to the innumerable industries which are now suffering from identical causes. Subsidies are not the answer, Mr. President, and as much as my heart goes out to the lead and zinc industries, I cannot in good conscience support a bill which is so unwise in principle.

-THE END-