

NEWS RELEASE
Senator Strom Thurmond
447 Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

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HARTSVILLE, S. C., May 30--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) declared in a speech here today that proponents of government in business have used the recession as an excuse to win U. S. Senate approval of some "wild-eyed programs" that will shove the Federal government "further into business and deeper into debt."

The South Carolina Democrat made these remarks during groundbreaking ceremonies for a new steam generating plant to be constructed near Hartsville by the Carolina Power and Light Company.

Thurmond singled out for special criticism the Community Facilities Bill and the Area Redevelopment Bill, both recently passed by the Senate and now pending in the House. He characterized them as "some new socialistic programs that strike at the very foundations of our free enterprise system and of our Constitution," adding that they will contribute considerably toward running the deficit for 1959 to \$9 billion.

Devoting a major part of his speech to a discussion of the Federal government's role in encouraging industrial expansion without encouraging the development of a socialistic state, the Senator urged that the government stay out of business unless two conditions are met. "First," he said, "the project must be something that is vitally needed. Second, it must be something that private enterprise is not willing to do."

"If Congress would apply this simple test to every piece of legislation calling for the Federal government to go into business," he said, "we would have much less government in business, lower taxes, an improved economy, and less chance of turning our government into a

socialistic welfare State."

Thurmond had high praise for this country's free enterprise system, which he said has made the United States "the greatest country in the world." He warned, however, that the atmosphere in Washington is one that reflects an "alarming disregard for the virtues of the free enterprise system."

He also spoke out strongly for freedom of initiative and individualism, praising South Carolina as being a State that stands for both of these high principles. "Freedom of initiative," he said, "is not listed in the Bill of Rights, but perhaps it should be. It is there in spirit if not in letter."

Pointing out that the power project is significant of the fact that South Carolina is forging ahead industrially, Thurmond declared that "private enterprise has the initiative, the desire, and the willingness to expand and develop where the atmosphere of State and local government is favorable and where the attitude of the people is conducive and cooperative."

These conditions and more, he said, exist in South Carolina. The Senator then expressed the hope that the State will soon have at least one industry in every community. He also stressed the importance of locating more industries in farming areas as a result of the recent setbacks suffered by agriculture.

The plant, scheduled for completion in 1960, will have an initial generating capacity of 250,000 horsepower. The plans provide for eventual expansion to 1,350,000 horsepower.

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