WASHINGTON—Senator Strom Thurmond, (R.-S.C.), said Thursday that activities of Office of Education representatives in the South remind him of a plague of locusts.

"The U. S. Office of Education, in its dictatorial operations and double standards which exceed the authority given it under the Civil Rights Act, goes about its nefarious business despite widespread concern here in Congress," he said in a Senate speech.

"Its agents moving about the South remind me of a plague of locusts, wrecking such havoc it may require decades of hard work and sweat to recover. They are descending on local authorities like knights commissioned by some high and mighty force and they issue their order to local school leaders and boards much like the reading or posting of a proclamation in the days before a Democratic government with checks and balances was even envisioned.

"They are applying one standard in the South, and quite another in the North, East and West. The sooner they get into these other areas of the country and spread their venom the quicker Congress will demand steps be taken to correct these obvious inequities.

"The question that concerns me is whether or not the school system of the South will be reduced to shambles by that date . . .

"At the base of the many problems which beset us is the devastating attack being made on our duly elected and appointed authorities at the local levels. In the past years, we have seen our federal government change from the servant of our people to the master of our people. This change is evidenced in the monolithic and capricious dictates of the Office of Education and other federal agencies. I urge Congress to not let this year pass without coming to grip with these bureaucrats . . ."