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Let's Look at '48

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AT PANEL DISCUSSION OVER RADIO STATION WHAS, MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:00 P.M.

LET'S LOOK AT '48

The Democratic Party already has its candidate for 1948, and will renominate him without delay.

President Truman's superb handling of the task of leading this Nation to victory after the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt; his fair but firm stand in international affairs at Potsdam and in subsequent dealings with world powers; his uncompromising support of the United Nations; his vigorous stand for the removal of international trade barriers and for restoring the flow of world commerce; his militant advocacy of maintaining our bulwarks of national defense; and his proven capacity to head up our bi-partisan foreign policy, upon which depends our success in avoiding war and achieving peace; - all these have won for him the confidence of the American people throughout the nation, and he has emerged as the hope of freedom-loving peoples everywhere for the attainment of peace and security in this troubled post-war world.

The overshadowing issue which confronts the United States and all the world today is peace and security. It envelops all others. In this atomic age the question whether we will have war or peace presents a challenge to civilization itself.

One nation and one nation alone threatens the success of the charter for world peace. By ignoring the Yalta declaration for liberated countries, by infiltration of communist puppets into post war governments, and by the reckless and unwarranted use of the veto power in the United Nations, Soviet Russia today is the greatest threat to world peace since Hitler marched into the Rhineland.

As between President Truman, with his seasoned experience, demonstrated ability, and tact in international affairs, and any Republican who has the slightest chance of getting his party's nomination, the American people will have no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that they had better leave our future in the
competent hands which have looked after it so well to this time.

On the domestic front, we have had a taste in the last Congress of what can be expected if the Republican Party is returned to national power. The Republicans have legislated the country into a state of hopeless confusion. It is elementary economics that when the farmer doesn't prosper, no one prospers, and yet the Republican policy trend bodes ill for the continuance of our agricultural program past its expiration date in December, 1948. When labor legislation comes under discussion, the Republican leaders say hopefully that prices will be the issue in 1948. Yet when prices are mentioned, their collective face turns red and their recommendation to the people is to eat less. The American people have had timely warning by the ineptitude of the Republican leadership in the present Congress not to trust their economic future to the tender mercies of the Republican Party.

The fundamental issues boil down to just about this: Those who are willing to take a chance with a party that will tell the people to eat less and work more, a party that would turn back the clock of social and economic progress by repealing labor's magna carta, and by taking from the farmers their soil conservation and stabilization program; a party which would approach the handling of the Nation's international affairs with a background of traditional isolationism, those people will vote the Republican ticket in 1948.

But we who believe in a liberal political philosophy, in the importance of human rights as well as property rights, in the preservation and strengthening of the economic and social gains brought about by the efforts of the Democratic Party in the past several decades, and who believe this Nation should continue its militant crusade for world peace, the Soviet Union to the contrary notwithstanding, we will vote for the election of Harry Truman and the restoration of Congress to the control of the Democratic Party, and I believe we will win.