2-22-1948

Meeting of Five Southern Governors Concerning Civil Rights

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Meeting of Five Southern Governors Concerning Civil Rights" (1948). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 294. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/294

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STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON MEETING OF FIVE SOUTHERN GOVERNORS COMPOSING SPECIAL "CIVIL RIGHTS" COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, MAYFLOWER HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 22, 1948.

The five Governors appointed by the Southern Governors Conference at their meeting on February 7 to make careful inquiry and investigation into the problems of the Southern States arising from the so-called "Civil Rights" proposals, met this afternoon. Those attending the meeting were Governor Thurmond, Chairman of South Carolina, Governor Laney of Arkansas, Governor Tuck of Virginia, Governor Jester of Texas, and Governor Cherry of North Carolina. Governor William P. Lane, Jr., Chairman of the Southern Governors Conference, met with the committee.

An extended discussion took place, and several plans of action were discussed and agreement was reached on the presentation to be made tomorrow to Chairman McGrath of the Democratic National Committee.

All five Governors will see Mr. McGrath with the exception of Governor Tuck, who said that he could not participate in the conference with Mr. McGrath.

The Governors agreed to undertake to arrange a meeting with the Southern members of Congress tonight if it was possible to do so.