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Seconding the Nomination of Senator Richard B. Russell, of Georgia, for President of the United States.

Strom Thurmond

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GOVERNOR THURMOND:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention:

Coming from the State which, in election after election, has cast the largest percentage of Democratic votes of any State in the union, it gives me pleasure to second the nomination of that great Southern Senator - the Honorable Richard Brevard Russell, of Georgia.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the convention, we in the South are greatly disturbed and concerned over the threat to free constitutional government in the United States. The very principles upon which this government were founded, and under which this nation has become the most powerful in the world, are in danger. Our people have been divided at a time when national unity is vital to peace in this troubled world.

Our fight is not the fight of the South alone! It is the fight of every American, who desires to preserve individual liberty, and to prevent our federal government from Usurping the rights of the States. It is the fight of every American who does not want to be subjected to a federal police state. It is the fight of every American who believes in the doctrine of Thomas Jefferson that the best government is that
government which is closest to the people.

We do not wish to take from any American his constitutional rights. But we do not intend that our constitutional rights shall be sacrificed for the selfish and sordid purpose of gaining minority votes in doubtful States. We believe that State sovereignty is a principle which transcends parties and personalities, and cannot be surrendered under any circumstances.

When we began our fight in Tallahassee last spring, the Southern Governors set forth clearly the broad principles of government upon which we waged our fight. Those principles cannot be bartered away, and they will not be bartered away.

Dick Russell has fought to preserve State sovereignty. His democracy cannot be challenged. His Americanism stands as a shining beacon to those who believe in constitutional government and who want to see our American way of life preserved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the State which gave this nation - Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun and James F. Byrnes, I second the nomination of Senator Russell for President of the United States.