10-1-1948

Summary of Thurmond's Statement at States' Rights Democratic Convention

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation

Thurmond, Strom, "Summary of Thurmond's Statement at States' Rights Democratic Convention" (1948). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 394. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/394

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Governor J. Strom Thurmond, States' Rights Democratic presidential candidate, today called upon "Americans everywhere to join in the rebirth of the Democratic Party" by throwing overboard the "false leaders who betrayed our principles."

Addressing several thousand persons attending a Maryland States' Rights rally, the presidential candidate lashed out vigorously against "big city bosses, hoodlums, gangsters and crackpots now in control of the national Democratic party."

"Those who follow the banners of the states' rights Democrats are determined that the evil forces that seized control of the national party shall be cast out," the South Carolina governor said. "States' Rights Democrats will not be diverted, and by their agency the Democratic Party will be made whole again. The impurities of that party-Harry Truman and all his followers—will be deposited like a sediment on the banks, and the crystal clear waters of pure Americanism will restore our party to its once high place in American history."

Governor Thurmond arrived here today after outlining the States' Rights objectives at a press conference in Washington D.C., Thursday. It was his first campaign talk outside the Solid South and he received a rousing ovation from Maryland States' Righters.

"The American people are waking up to the fact that they are living in an age of government by minority groups," the presidential candidate stated. "They are rapidly becoming aware that the greatest office in the United States is being perverted by selfish minority blocs. And by the millions, Americans everywhere are learning that the means by which that office is being perverted is a program that violates the fundamental precepts of our democracy."

"Fortunately, the States' Rights leader declared that the American people have witnessed a terrible spectacle during the last few months. They have seen the greedy bosses of three political parties repudiate the rights of the states in making cheap bids for the votes of minority factions."

"For the first time in America history neither one of the old parties has made a stand for states' rights," Governor Thurmond asserted. "There is no way of dodging this terrible fact. It will be written on the pages of history to the dreadful shame of the American people. Our day will be remembered as the day when Republicans flaunted the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and when the Democrats forgot the glory of Thomas Jefferson."
"But the party bosses directed their vicious measures against the traditions of the South, and in doing so, overlooked the 'spirit which kindled this republic and still burns brightly,' Governor Thurmond said, adding that the South forever "will be loyal to the principles which made the Democratic Party great."

"Joining Southerners in every-growing numbers are Americans from all sections of the country," the presidential candidate said, "They have come to realize that freedom of local self-government is at stake. They are with us, for they know that if the treachery of the Truman, Dewey or Wallace is successful, the Federal steamroller will crush every States' Rights guaranteed by the constitution. They know that if this takes place, the American way of life will be entirely changed."

From the dates when America's major parties were born, every great statesman has admitted that the success of democracy lies in the balance of power between a federal and state government, he asserted.

Americans are beginning to realize that States' Rights Democrats have the ability and power to accomplish their objectives which are so essential to the preservation of constitutional freedom. He concluded with the prediction that: "Whatever may be the outcome of the election, in the years to come the principles of the States' Rights Democrats will live as long as the American government remains a democracy. The principles will forever play a dominant role in helping all Americans preserve their way of living."