

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND STATES' RIGHTS DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, ON THE FUTURE OF THE STATES' RIGHTS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, OCT. 15, 1948.

The States' Rights Democratic movement is primarily an effort to restore the Democratic Party to its historic function as a bulwark for Constitutional government and of the rights of states to manage their own internal affairs.

As such, it will not cease after the election of November 2, but will continue until this effort has been successful.

We recognize that the leadership of the National Democratic Party has fallen into the hands of persons who are willing to violate the Constitution at the demands of two factions: the Negro minority organization in several big-city states, and the advocates of a centralized government.

We believe the leadership of the Party can be regained from those who are in temporary control, and that it can be <sup>re-</sup>built as a staunch advocate of local self-government as opposed to the centralization of power in Washington at the expense of the states.

In this effort, we also recognize the fact that the Republican Party in its 1948 platform sharply attacked the principle of state sovereignty by promising to violate the Constitution with a Civil Rights program similar to that of the National Democrats.

This indicates that the American political system as a whole is in danger of exploitation by influences who would lead our people toward totalitarianism, and away from government by the consent of the governed.

We therefore welcome into our movement all those who realize the importance of reaffirming and re-establishing the historic basis of our freedoms, regardless of what they may have called themselves politically in the past.

No man can say what may happen in the future. But we of the States' Rights Democrats will remain organized as long as it

is necessary to restore the Democratic Party to the American way, and to guarantee that the principle of state sovereignty is perpetuated.