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Reply to Questions by United Press on the Future of States' Rights Democratic Movement

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR J. STROM THURMOND IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY UNITED PRESS ON THE FUTURE OF THE STATES' RIGHTS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, OCTOBER 15, 1948

QUESTION: What will happen to the States' Rights Democrats after the election of November 2, 1948?

ANSWER: The States' Rights Democrats will remain as an organization as long as it is necessary to accomplish our purpose, which is to restore the Democratic Party to its historic functions of preserving government by the Constitution and the sovereignty of states in managing their own internal affairs.

QUESTION: What will be the long-range effect of the movement on the nation's political life?

ANSWER: The long-range effect will be the establishment of the Democratic Party as a bulwark against centralized government. This will insure that there will be one major party which will continue to support the Jeffersonian ideals of representative government, as opposed to centralized, bureaucratic control. When it has been restored to this function, the Democratic Party may of course attract many Republicans who recognize the Republican trend toward centralization.

QUESTION: Do you think there will be an administration in Washington next year which will support states' rights?

ANSWER: If the States' Rights Democratic candidates are elected there will be. Otherwise, we have no positive assurance that states' rights will be protected. On the contrary, we have positive promises from Truman, Dewey, and Wallace that they will not be protected.