

ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, AND STATES' RIGHTS DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR BROADCAST
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My Friends Overseas:

I welcome this opportunity to talk with the people of Europe, and am most thankful to Radio Station WRUL for the opportunity. I have many friends in the countries of Western Europe -- friends from the days just four years ago when they and I were fighting side-by-side as brothers-in-arms against the Nazi dictatorship.

I know that all of them who knew me then as an American soldier, are surprised that I am now a candidate for President of the United States. I myself am surprised, for I had no thought that such ever would come to pass.

The reason that I am running for President is that, for the first time in American history, all of the existing major political parties took the same position on the old American political question of federal authority versus state authority.

From the very beginning of the American nation there has been one group which believed the national government should have strong and extensive powers. The other group believed that powers and functions over local matters should be retained by the local state, county, or city governments. Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the American Declaration of Independence, led the latter group, and its principles were incorporated into the United States Constitution.

In this country our state legislatures make the laws governing us within the States. The exercise of general police power remains in the hands of the states and local governments. Justice is administered by local officials. We elect our State Governors and local officials and not even the President of the United States can remove them from office, nor interfere with their functioning.

We believe that this is the way democracy should be organized, because all the powers of government are not gathered into one central authority where a dictator can seize them, or where the office holder will be tempted to become despotic. American democracy has endured the better part of two centuries under this division of government -- a longer time than any other Republican government.

But now, in the past few years, there has been a resurgence of those who believe that the central government should assume great powers formerly held by the States. They have proposed federal laws which would give the national government more control over elections, police power, and regulatory powers over labor unions and business firms.

Those who favor these measures say they are designed to help safeguard the rights of American citizens, especially the minorities. Our answer is that there is no right that any citizen

has which is more important or dear than the First and essential freedom -- the right to local self-government. If laws proposed for the benefit of minorities are laws which restrict the right to local self-government, then they are dangerous laws. They will do more harm than good to all citizens, including the minorities.

We States' Rights Democrats believe that power concentrated on the Banks of the Potomac in America, would be as dangerous to all freedoms as it was when concentrated on the banks of the Tiber in Italy, of the Spree in Germany, or the Volga in Russia.

So, this year when all the existing major political parties endorsed the proposals for strong federal powers, those who believed in the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, refused to follow them. They nominated me for President and my good friend, Governor Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi, for vice-president.

NOW, Americans who highly value this first and most essential freedom -- the right of local self-government -- have a chance to support a movement pledged to preserve it at all costs.

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