

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR USE IN THE SPARTANBURG
HERALD & JOURNAL, SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1948.

All of us have seen the old-line political maneuvering which led to the recent Republican nomination of Governor Dewey and Governor Warren. Americans cannot afford to revert to old-guard, isolationist principles in this critical hour.

We have seen the outrageous use by President Truman of the Civil Rights issue as a political grab for minority votes and an attempt to trample State Sovereignty for political advantage. Americans do not want and will not endorse this type of leadership today.

I have therefore appealed to Mr. Truman to withdraw his candidacy for the sake of the welfare of our country. He must realize that he cannot be elected. He should withdraw in favor of a man who can receive the wholehearted endorsement of nearly all Americans.

It is my opinion that the Democrats of the South will gladly relinquish any personal claims they may have on the Democratic Party ticket in favor of General Eisenhower or some other great American behind whom the nation can rally in the world crisis now facing us. However, if Mr. Truman insists on using the prestige of the Presidency to further his own ambition, there will be no course left open to us in the South except to choose independent electors in the November general election.

I sincerely hope that the Democratic Party will be allowed freedom in the convention to choose General Eisenhower. If they are successful in drafting him, I do not feel that he will decline the nomination.