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Urging Candidates for Office to Explain the Civil Rights Issue to the People from the Platform

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, URGING CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE TO EXPLAIN THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE PLATFORM. JULY 23, 1948.

It is absolutely imperative that the people of our State become thoroughly familiar with the issues at stake in the national elections. Both the Republicans and the so-called National Democrats have pledged themselves to a Civil Rights force bill. If this bill is passed, and its measures forced upon us, our way of life in South Carolina will be completely and utterly changed. Therefore, I strongly urge that all candidates now running for office in this State, use their opportunities on the platform to tell our people what they may expect under a Civil Rights force bill.

We have delayed long enough. We must begin to act. There is no doubt in my mind that our candidates for office and our city, county, and state leaders realize the dangers we face. Judging from the letters pouring into our office, the people want to know how their candidates feel about Civil Rights.

We can and we will carry this fight into the Electoral College, where we have an excellent chance to win.