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Statement on President Truman

Strom Thurmond

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Columbia, South Carolina - Governor J. Strom

Thurmond, States' Rights candidate for President, today charged President Truman and other high officials "are making a desperate effort to hide the extent to which communists and communist sympathizers have honey-combed the administration and have dictated its policies". Governor Thurmond in a prepared statement lashed out at the President and the Department of Justice for the part they have played in congressional investigations of communist activities within the government. The States' Rights candidate's statement follows:

"President Truman and other high officials are making a desperate effort to hide the extent to which communists and communist sympathizers have honey-combed the administration and have dictated its policies. The Senate and House Committees which are investigating communist activities within the government are doing the country a real service. The revelations made by the committee thus far are shocking in their implications. They reveal that men whose loyalty was gravely suspect have been protected in key government positions. These men have been in a position not only to give information to Moscow but to help plot programs which will divide America and which will help to establish the concentra-
tion of authority in Washington which is the necessary prelude to
dictatorship.

"The President's reference to the inquiries as a
"red herring" is a feeble attempt to allay the wrath of the average
American over the facts made public, to hamper the investigations
and to prevent further revelation which will bring out even more
clearly the influence that communists have had in Washington during
recent years.

"The President and the administration should cooperate
in every way possible with the Congressional Committees. If the
Department of Justice has all the facts and more which the inquiries
have already brought to light, I can only say that the Department has
been criminally negligent in the handling of these facts. It has
muzzled its Federal Bureau of Investigation, it has covered up for
subversive forces, it has been responding to partisan politics,
and has given comfort and passive assistance to the enemies of liberty
and democracy here and abroad.

"It is possible that suspicion has been cast upon in-
ocent men. If so, the thing for the administration to do is to co-
operate with the committees in bringing out the truth so that indivi-
duals now under a cloud will be absolved if they are innocent. This
is the real way to protect civil liberties and the individual's concern.
So long as the administration withholds facts, the suspicion will persist that there is not one but several smelly and worm-ridden skeletons in Washington closets.

"Americans everywhere may rest assured that the cloud of communistic suspicion has never and will never hover around a States' Rights Democrat, be he in or out of government. On the other hand, States' Righters both in and out of Congress are assisting in every possible way the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Congressional investigation committees in their efforts to throw light on communist activities within the government.

"If anyone wonders why an increasing number of Americans are supporting the States' Rights fight he has only to examine closely what the Congressional committees have already brought to light and to await further facts which inevitably must be uncovered.

"The so-called Civil Rights Program which this administration is trying to foist upon the country has its origin in class and communist ideology. It is an attempt to arouse/race hatred, to divide the country, to centralize authority, to destroy states rights, and to create the chaos and confusion which leads to communism. Some of the men mentioned prominently in the committee inquiries help draft and promote the civil rights program.

"Furthermore it is disturbing that President Truman
who urged enactment of the so-called Civil Rights program upon the Congress now is trying to shield from Congressional investigators those persons in his administration against whom suspicion has been cast.

"The States' Rights Democratic Party is fighting for the fundamental principles upon which this republic was founded. We will continue this fight until the danger which threatens this country is past. In so doing we feel that we are serving the best interests of all Americans."