

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, CONCERNING RESPECT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
OF CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHILE
SPEAKING IN THE SOUTH, AUGUST 31, 1948

I sincerely hope that Mr. Wallace during his speaking tour in the South will be given a respectful hearing.

Free Speech and peaceful assemblage are cordial principles of Constitutional Government in our Republic. They must be preserved at any cost. Any denial of these rights for one group endangers the rights of other groups to enjoy them. Regardless of our views with reference to Mr. Wallace and the program he sponsors, I hope that he will be heard and that those who gather to hear him will not be molested.

If Mr. Wallace or Mr. Truman or Mr. Dewey comes to South Carolina I, as Governor of the State, call upon the people to see to it that their rights under the Constitution shall be fully respected, although they may advocate a program we think is wholly unconstitutional and un-American, and contrary to the best interests of our people.

I would also like to express the hope that Mr. Wallace, Mr. Truman and Mr. Dewey respect our laws with reference to segregation, and that they will not attempt to invite disturbances in their meetings in the South by encouraging disregard of our segregation laws, in order to win political support from a minority bloc in the other sections of the country.