

MINUTES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS  
MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1948

The eight nominees of the Democratic Party of South Carolina for Presidential Electors held a meeting Thursday, September 2, 1948, in the State Capitol. Those present were: Eugene S. Blease, Charlton DuRant, Irving M. Fishburne, J. K. Mayfield, Leon W. Harris, H. M. Arthur, E. Clyburn Wilson, and Thomas R. Miller.

Judge Eugene Blease was elected chairman of the Electoral Board, Harry Arthur was elected secretary, and Irving M. Fishburne was elected treasurer. Judge Blease presided.

A discussion as to the proper legal qualifications of Presidential Electors was held. A listing was made of all public offices held by the Electors. Judge Blease was authorized to make a study of qualifications of Electors with regard to public offices, and to report on findings to those present. It was agreed that those holding public offices in conflict with legal qualifications for Electors, would resign said offices in order to serve as Electors.

A motion was passed appointing a committee of three to draft a statement to be signed by the Electors giving their position as to whom they would vote for in the coming General Election. Serving on the committee were: Thomas R. Miller, Leon W. Harris, and J. T. Mayfield. This committee submitted the following statement which was signed by all eight Electors:

"We the Democratic nominees for Presidential Electors for the State of South Carolina hereby pledge our support to Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina for President of the United States, and Governor Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi for Vice President of the United States."

In a brief talk to the Electors Governor Thurmond expressed his appreciation for the above action. He said there had been a great deal of discussion concerning the Congressional delegation from the South in the matter of seniority on committees, but that

he believed that principle should be placed above committee seniority in this instance. In explaining the aims of the States Rights Democrats, he said that if Dewey and Truman should split the vote outside the South, the election probably would be thrown into the House of Representatives. In this case each State would have one vote, and States' Rights candidates would have a good chance, since the Republicans would prefer him to Truman, while the Democrats would prefer him to Dewey. If this did not happen, and Dewey swept the states outside the South, then the Southern Democrats in Congress would have the balance of power and the minority control. Therefore, he said, it is to the advantage of the Congressional delegations to support the States' Rights ticket. He said States' Rights Democrats are standing by the real principles of the Democratic Party, while the National Democrats have strayed from them.

A discussion was held concerning the opposition being made to the States' Rights cause by certain newspapers. The Electors agreed that this opposition was being made on local political grounds.

The Electors discussed ways and means of raising the South Carolina financial contribution to the cause. Governor Thurmond announced that a quota of \$80,000--- \$1,000 for each member of Congress--- had been set. Others said that \$170,000 could be raised--\$1,000 for each member of the General Assembly.

It was decided that every effort should be made to bring out a heavy registration and vote in the General Election.

A sub-committee was appointed to prepare a list of names for the State Campaign Committee and a County Campaign Chairman for each county. This committee consisted of Judge Blease, Jt T. Mayfield, and E. C. Wilson.

Senator R. M. Kennedy told the group of the occasion when Governor Thurmond accepted the Birmingham recommendation on July 17, saying he was present and could witness the fact that Governor Thurmond did not expect it, did not want it, and made every attempt to persuade the delegates to name a better-known figure.

George MacNabb  
Acting Secretary

September 2, 1948