

September 2, 1948

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTORS PLEDGE TO VOTE FOR THURMOND AND WRIGHT

Eight nominees of the Democratic Party of South Carolina for presidential electors today issued a statement saying they had signed a pledge to support Governor J. Strom Thurmond and Governor Fielding L. Wright for President and Vice President of the United States.

The eight were nominated yesterday by the State Democratic Executive Committee. A motion made to defer naming the electors at that meeting was voted down by the 46-man committee, which carried out instructions of the May convention of the State Democratic Party.

Judge Eugene S. Blease, of Newberry, elected chairman of the board of eight electors, said today the group held a two-hour meeting at the State Capitol. They discussed organization plans for pushing the States' Rights Democrats' ticket in South Carolina, and for raising financial contributions, Judge Blease said.

He said the State's campaign committee, consisting of a chairman and seven others, would be announced tomorrow, and the campaign directors would be named by the electors in each of the State's counties.

Governor Thurmond, invited to address the electors, said in a brief talk that he deeply appreciated the support of the board. He outlined campaign strategy of the States' Rights Democrats, saying that its candidates will have a "good chance" if the election of a President is thrown into the House of Representatives. If this is not done, he said, the Southern Democrats nevertheless would have minority control of the Congress, and the standing in Congress would be better than heretofore.

Judge Blease said that the State's quota of financial contributions is \$80,000, but that the electors expected to raise much more than that for the support of Governors Thurmond and Wright.

The statement signed by the electors is as follows:

"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.

"Eugene S. Blease

"Charlton DuRant

"Irving M. Fishburne

"J. K. Mayfield

"Leon W. Harris

"H. M. Arthur

"E. Clyburn Wilson

"Thos. R. Miller."

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