

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, CONCERNING REPUDIATION OF
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, SEPTEMBER 3,
1948.

The Democratic Party belongs to the people who go to make it up. It does not belong to the temporary national leadership. That leadership has "kidnapped" the Party. The democrats of the South have repudiated that leadership and are fighting to return the Party to its traditional principles.

These "kidnappers" talk about running the Democrats of the South out of the Party. This is like the tail trying to throw the dog out of the kennel. But it is gratifying to know that at last they feel the heat of our resentment and repudiation.

Our people do not intend to traffic with the "kidnappers" or pay them ransom.

We are not bolters; the bolters are those who have betrayed the Party's principles.

They have camp followers in our midst, who are willing to swallow the Philadelphia platform and who will pay ransom by helping in the effort to bring about drastic changes in our way of life.

We will run on and support the platform of the Democratic Party of South Carolina. That platform represents Democracy, as our people believe it to be. That is what our people will vote for.

We shall keep our self-respect and be true to our heritage. These are not for sale, and McGrath and Primm cannot scare us out of them with their statements.

Congressional seniority is not theirs to dispense, and they insult our people by thinking that we would sell out our principles for their favors.

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