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Address at Labor Day Celebration, Fairfield, Alabama

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, AT LABOR DAY CELEBRATION,
FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA, SEPTEMBER 6, 1948,
4:00 P.M., C.S.T.

My Fellow Americans:

I am glad to greet the people of Alabama. The world
refers to your commonwealth as the "Cotton State". However, yours
is also the state of iron and coal and steel, great industries --
and great Democrats.

Alabama's record throughout the years of voting for
the Democratic ticket is one that tells a story of Alabama ideals
and Alabama traditions. It is not difficult for any discerning
person to comprehend Alabama's reaction to the Philadelphia conven-
tion. The principles, the ideals and the traditions which Alabama
people for years have upheld in the halls of the Democratic Party
were trod upon in Philadelphia. This is why the people of Alabama
expressed their resentment in no uncertain terms in Philadelphia.

I am glad to be here in Fairfield. This meeting to-
day is evidence of your community harmony and your community coopera-
tion. I understand that Fairfield's labor organizations, your Chamber
of Commerce, your civic and service clubs, and the churches have
cooperated admirably together to stage this Labor Day celebration.
Today throughout the length and breadth of the land
the American people are celebrating Labor Day, and paying a well-
merited tribute to the working men and women of the nation.

We gratefully remember their magnificent job of
production during World War II which played such a decisive part
in the victory of our armed forces.

Production is the keystone of the future which we
confidently look to. If we are to achieve it, labor must produce
to win the peace as labor produced to win the war.

We are fortunate that American labor is active and
virile. So long as our working men and women assume and discharge
their civic responsibilities, this nation will remain unfriendly
soil for the seeds of totalitarian rule. It was no coincidence
that there were strong labor movements in those countries in Europe
which resisted the Nazi and Fascist ideologies, and that the dictators
were forced to crush the labor unions and regiment them under
government control before the liberty of the people could be
destroyed.

Labor Day memorializes the struggle by which our
working men and women established their priceless rights, and
particularly the right of collective bargaining. They had to fight
hard, wait long, and make many sacrifices before the progress of
which they are justly proud today was won.
Freedom from industrial unrest and strife is necessary to bring about full production; it is essential to the well-being of both labor and industry. Labor and management are dependent one upon the other. They are both human institutions. They speak the same language. Working together they can accomplish production miracles.

The American system of individual initiative is the hope of economic opportunity for the people of the world in which we live today. It is now under assault from forces throughout the world which would collectivize mankind and destroy the American way of life.

Labor has the greatest stake in our economic system. Labor knows that our system is the only one under which working men and women are free from regimentation, the only one under which we guarantee our children an unlimited ceiling of economic opportunity to challenge their enterprise and ambition.

Thomas Jefferson defined good government as "A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement; and shall not take from labor the bread it has earned."

In its activities in the field of industrial relations, government must be fair and impartial -- fair to labor, fair to
our present system.

extend the tyrany over into the boundaries of the other 47 states under
should such a dictator rise to power in one state he could not possibly
result for a dictator to march into a state capital and take over. But
government in the states is so close to the people that it would be dif-
the various states. Government in the states is so close to the people.
government in Washington but instead have distributed these powers amon
he in America have refused to concentrate the powers of
and that when constitutional rights are gone all human rights are destroyed.
They soon learned that constitutional rights in the states/human rights,
human rights could be granted upon by surrounding constitutional rights.
The German people were Knocken enough to believe that
sorowed and devastated, thinking leaders were Guthraum.
states were replaced with Hitler Henchmen. Opposing parties were de-
except all state institutions were abolished. The scherred heads of the I."

In the transition from the German Republic to the German

commitment of world war two which have destroyed the world.
the vision and the courage to make a Greater Germany, capable of the great
If someone in Germany back in 1932 or 1935 had possessed

Term as Governor.

We record which they have made of preserving industrial peace during
both to labor and management in my own state of South Carolina for the

On this Labor Day, I want to pay an especial tribute

industry, and fair to the public.
The power from the people.

The right to control elections within the states by the people.

The Congress invaded the power of the states to meet their own needs.

The people are the federal agents of the states.

Philanthropic contribution.

The program which is so needed supported by the three branches of the federal government.

With this thought in mind let us now examine the underpinnedགོང་ཐོབ་

If I find that the people are interested in meaning the truth.

I have made it a point, wherever I have gone, to explain democracy.

My friends, as a spokesman for the greater majority.

Here's how it works, we will have repudiated the men who have made this fight for.

Statesmen who feel as we feel, do not uphold the campaign of attacks.

And now, sound a warning. If the people of this state and other

somewhere in the middle, we can force open the doorway to tyranny.

I want you here and now, my friends. The greater majority.
It is fundamental in the American system of government that, if liberty is to be retained in this country, the control of our elections must remain at home. There can be no tyrant, there can be no dictator, in America, if the people in the communities of the nation control their elections, fix voting qualifications, and determine how and when franchise shall be granted. This is historic Americanism.

The Federal Police Bill -- The so-called Anti-Lynching Law -- is of the same stripe. Lynching is almost an extinct crime. No one favors lynching. Lynching is banned by the laws of all 48 of the states in the Union. Lynching is murder and is punishable by death or life imprisonment in all of our States. Last year there was but one recorded lynching in the entire Southland, and the records were reliably tabulated by Tuskegee Institute, one of the great Negro colleges of the Nation -- located in the State of Alabama.

Yet, despite the indisputable fact that the nation is overcoming the crime of lynching, an effort is now being made to enact an anti-lynching law in the Congress.

Those who advocate the anti-lynching law propose to give the federal government the power to punish crimes committed within the individual States. It is another gesture to tyranny, another effort to centralize the power of government in Washington.
My fellow Americans, this is indeed a gloomy political picture. But there is hope. This hope is reflected in the fight of the States' Rights Democrats who are not willing to follow party leaders who deliberately desert the principles which have been the foundation stones of the Democratic Party for more than a hundred years.

The Democratic Party of Alabama did not choose to travel this un-American way. The Democratic Party of Mississippi was not willing to take this course. The Democratic Party of South Carolina was not willing to desert these cherished ideals. And no one can say that these States have not been in the forefront in all matters of party loyalty throughout the years since the Democratic Party came into being.

If those advocates of an anti-lynching law are sincere in what they say then why did they refuse to permit this proposition to be submitted in the constitutional way for consideration as an amendment to our constitution? You know the answer. These men are men of expediency and not men of great principles. They prefer to scandalize, to insult, to berate, to condemn, to damn, hoping that the emotions of the people will become so aroused that logic will be lost in confusion.
Read the notes on the constitutional convention of 1787 and it becomes obvious that local control of police power must be maintained at home. If we lose our local police powers we will eventually lose our liberties. The founders of our country deliberately denied the federal government any police powers over the States because they knew, as we know, that to concentrate police powers within the federal government is to open the way to dictatorship and tyranny. Yet we have President Truman's word for it that he is now training federal police to enforce the anti-lynching bill and the F.E.P.C. as soon as they become the laws of the land.

Only one lynching last year, my friends, think of it....

And yet Harry Truman and his associates, and Tom Dewey and Henry Wallace, are willing to break away from constitutional government, create a police force, invade the rights of the individual states, and all this under the guise of preventing lynching. This is an insult to the intelligence of our people. States' Rights Democrats are not willing to take this insult lying down.

Another assault upon the intelligence of our people is the attempt of the politicians to enforce mingling of the two races. The people in a local community have the right to use the
means and methods that will best promote harmonious relations.

Some may determine that separation of the two races is the most effective way to accomplish this purpose. This is a method employed in some States to establish and maintain better race relations.

Each State has the right -- a right that should not be denied by any power -- to avail itself of the best method of promoting harmony between the people of different races within its boundaries. Every right-thinking American wants good racial relations. If the interests of the people of New York are better served under laws prohibiting separation of the races, then they should have the right to prohibit separation. If the people of Florida are better governed under separation laws, then they should have the right to enact such legislation. If a State does not need legislation for or against separation of the races, then federal laws on the subject should not be imposed on that State. Even in States where there are no laws separating the races, the people voluntarily establish segregation; otherwise, there would be no Harlem in New York City, no Chinatown in San Francisco, no South Side in Chicago, and no similar segregated communities in Philadelphia, Detroit and other densely populated cities.
The tragedy that lies in the willingness of the professional politician, seeking office, to usurp power is well illustrated by the horrible example set lately by the nominees of the Republican, Democratic and Progressive Parties, Dewey, Truman and Wallace, -- all willing to break down the separation of the races in the armed forces, even at the sacrifice of the morale of the soldiers and the safety of the country itself, against the advice of the military leaders charged with the defense of the nation. Our boys in Service should not be subjected to an unnecessary hazard. The American people do not want their sons placed in such a position, when the military leaders say it is unsafe, simply to allow politicians of this country to appeal to bloc votes.

The proposed federal Fair Employment Practices act upheld by Dewey, advocated by Wallace and recommended by Harry Truman, generally known as the FEPC, was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Ives as Senate Bill 984. This proposed law would make it unlawful to discriminate in matters of employment on account of "race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry." The proposed American FEPC was patterned after a Russian law written by Joseph Stalin about 1920, referred to in Russia as Stalin's "All-Races Law". Stalin was commissar of Nationalities at the time
The respect for

freedom where the democracy and liberty of the individual

It is not work in free America or in any free

and they rise and move at the whim and caprice of a dictator.

autonomy and ambition of the people are controlled from Moscow.

subject to the Russian form of government, where the thought is

Devere's, Wattenberg's, and Truman's are to adaptability

under the constitution of the United States.

who are every concept of the right of employer and employees

oppose this American edition of the Russian REV, because it

not, instead of catering for the momentum, creates absolute democratic.

communist style. these, chained up to them as a part employment prevents

the Presbyterian constitution to oppose this collection of

important for the American people to have expected the nomination of

With this history and background, it would have been

from Dewey shield into town.

followed in New York by the men who wrote the PEP, LL that

Russian pattern in Britain's "MIT"-ness law. The same course was

injunctions, provisions in the proposed PEP naturally follow the

himself to support dictator of former Russian, the communists.

that he wrote this law, and he used it as a means of advancement
We have recently learned of the infiltration of communist spies into our government and our critical industries. You may rest assured that the communists will use the FEPC law to serve their purposes. It will afford them a way of forcing their agents and saboteurs into every tool and die room, every machine shop and every industrial plant and laboratory, atomic or otherwise, in America. Dewey's, Wallace's and Truman's FEPC was made to order for communist use in their designs upon our national security. It might well be entitled "a law to sabotage America".

Dewey's, Wallace's and Truman's FEPC contains a fundamental threat to our American way of life. This proposal calls for an army of federal police, empowered to spy into the affairs of each business enterprise in the United States, to control the hiring and firing of employees, promotion and demotion of employees, and to enforce rules and regulations which govern the relations between employer and employee.

The employee will no longer have the right to choose his associates, either on the job or in the labor organizations. The employer is deprived of his right to employ people who will best serve his business. He cannot promote and demote as his judgment demands. From the point of view of all of us, whether employer or
...
of freedom.

You, my friends, to take up the free and march with us up the hill.

American men and women with the fighting spirit of 1776. We invite
Government. We shall prove to the world that there still lives in
the courage to wage a campaign for the preservation of constitutional
and the greater, absolute democracies are the men and women who are making

Constitutional government must be preserved in America.

condemne the men who conspired and approve these evils.

You cannot condemn the evils of the Philadelphi conference without
oppose your Headly's E.P.C. and at the same time support Tom Dewey.

oppose your Headly's E.P.C. and at the same time support Henry Wallace. You cannot
decry the same that support Henry Wallace's communism.

oppose Henry Wallace's actual rights program and at the same time support
This is a destruction-making time. You cannot countenance

potterism.

not to possess or possess who would meet their rights for a mess of
the people of the South will be loyal to precedent and
appear groups that have never been known to be loyal to any party?
Democratic Party in the name of political democracy as they seek to
humble our ourselves with the party leaders drain the name of the
the teachings of Thomas Jefferson. Does it mean that we must