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.

extends the tyranny over into the boundaries of the other 47 states under

should such a doctrine take to power in one state he could not possibly

result for a doctrine 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 those powers amou-

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 these states/human rights

human rights could be guatratly upon by state rights. constitutional rights

the German people were too weak to better that

sowed and demonstrated thinking leaders were thwarted.

states were replaced with Führer Hierarchy. Opposing parties were the-

which all state legislatures were abolished. The elected heads of the 17

in the transition from the German Republic to the German

corruption of world war two might never have developed the world

the vision and the courage to make a Greater Germany complete the arm-

If someone in Germany back in 1931 or 1932 had possessed

term as governor.

We record which they have made of preserving industrial strife 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.

orators and would control elections within the states by takine

that Congress invades the power of the states to great their con

pare to the federal anti-poll tax bill. 

Principles of the convention.

program which is so needed to support. By the three nominae of the

with this thought in mind let us now examine this esteemed arafty phil.

Blli. I think that the people are interested in learning the truth

somewhat in detail the objections plans in the national affair. Natives

democrats. I have made at a point, wherever I have gone, to explain

My friends; as a spokesman for the states, natives

us.

natives: we shall have replaced the men who have made the fight for

natives: who feel as we feel, do not uphold the campaign of states.

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

those who advocate states' rights in America, here

new.

a willing right to defend the passage of the notorious anti-pro

some of our southern senators and congressman made

program in the Senate which can force open the doorways to tyrann

I want you here and now, my friends. The great fight
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 legis-
lation 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.

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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 respected.

Governor where the dignity and worth and liberty of the individual
It will not work in free America or in any free
and they live and more at the whim and caprice of a dictator.

so called and admitted of the people are controlled from Moscow,
sustained to the Russian form of government, where the thought is
Devery's, wardens', and tramway's help to adaptably
under the constitution of the United States.

wherever every concept of the right of employers and employees
oppose the American edition of the Russian Revolution, because it
not, instead of calling for the emigration, greater virtues, democrats
communistic ideas, drifted up to them as a part of employment practices
the philosophers' conceptions to oppose this collection of
impossible for the American people to have expected the nominales of
with the history and background, it would have been

from Dewey's speech into law.

followed in New York by the men who wrote the PEP Bill that
Russian pattern in Steinitz' 'Mitt-Notes Law'. The same course was
and judicial provisions in the proposed PEP naturally follow the
intended to supplant dictator of soviet Russia. The administrators
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
Is it the scrupling of the principles for which our people have fought for five generations? Is it the course that Hitler and Mussolini followed yesterday and the course which Joe Stalin is following today? Does it mean that we must turn our backs upon the faith of our fathers.

What is it that we want in a Party? Is it the Lusitana? No, it is not. There are those gentlemen who cry, "Party loyalty," and thereby for the souls of a constitution, a democracy, the people do not want the Federal Government to murder the people over such a setup as we have seen in Europe in our time. The people do not want the Federal Government to murder the people.

Is the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice to be reorganized to enforce this so-called Civil Rights program, its agents would circulate throughout the land, mediating with private business, policing elections, interfering in private lawsuits, breeding litigation, and keeping people in a constant state of apprehension and harassment. Liberty quickly perishes under such a setup.

The net effect of Dewey's, Wallace's and Truman's 1948 will be to force all business and business relationships in this country into a Washington pattern, guided and enforced by a federal Gestapo, with dangerous powers over the employee or other private citizen.
of Freedom.

You, my friends, to take up the Flag and March with us up the Hill America men and women with the Fight for spirit of '77. We invite Government. We shall prove to the world that there yet lives in the Conference to make a committee for the preservation of constitutional let the men and women that in a crisis we knew the just and the right to preserve the America. and the greater Althous Democrats are the men and women who are making Constitutional Government must be preserved in America.

condemn the men who concurred and approve these acts.

You cannot condemn the acts of the Philadelphia convention without oppose your Destiny's P. E. G., and at the same time support your Destiny.

Oppose these acts. You cannot be opposed to Henry Watterson's community oppose Harry Trumans actual rights program and at the same time support this is a deception-making this. You cannot consistently oppose it to postulant possess any would met their rights even as the people of the South will be loyal to postulant and approve groups that have never been known to be loyal to any party! Democratic party in the name of postulant distinction as they seek to humble ourselves with the party leaders gave the name of the teachings of Thomas Jefferson. Does it mean that we must...