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Address introducing Judge Horace C. Wilkinson, of Birmingham, Ala. to a Spartanburg, S.C., audience

Strom Thurmond

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It is with the deepest regret that I can not be present at the States' Rights Democratic dinner in Spartanburg tonight and personally introduce your distinguished speaker.

While you are carrying on in Spartanburg and the Piedmont section of South Carolina for this great cause in which we are engaged, I am speaking in Texas in an all-out campaign to carry the Lone Star State for the States' Rights Democratic ticket.

Before I introduce your speaker, let me say just this to the people in the Piedmont. The issues involved in this campaign strike at the very heart of our system of government. Not in your life time will you ever have an opportunity to cast a ballot which will mean so much in preserving local self-government and the way of life which means so much to us as South Carolinians, as Southerners, and as Americans.

There is no question but the States' Rights Democratic ticket is going to sweep South Carolina, but we want to roll up the greatest majority possible. Make your plans to vote on election day next Tuesday and see to it that your friends vote. That is our big objective now, and I know the people of the Piedmont are not going to pass up this opportunity to register their free choice at the ballot box.

The ballot is the greatest weapon ever placed in the hands of free men and women. The Democratic Party of South Carolina, your party and my party, have given you the opportunity to vote your convictions and belief in the traditional political and governmental principles of the Democratic party of Jefferson and Jackson. Our party has offered a slate of electors headed by Judge Blease who are committed to the support of states' rights and candidates defending that principle. It is the right and duty of each and every one of you to discharge the highest function of citizenship by going to the polls next Tuesday.
Your speaker tonight is one of the outstanding citizens of the South. He is a fighting veteran of the first World War, having fought with the famous Wildcat division. He is no stranger to South Carolina, having trained at Camp Jackson and Camp Sevier.

After the war he was elected to the circuit bench in Alabama, and served with distinction for two terms. He then resumed the practice of law. I do not believe any one man in Alabama has made a greater contribution to the cause of good government. As special assistant attorney general he broke up mob violence in Alabama by sending 28 people to jail in 28 days after they had participated in a lynching. He is a man of great courage and above all he is a man of conviction. He has been one of the key men in the States' Rights democratic movement and it is my pleasure to present to you that brilliant lawyer, scholar and jurist -- Judge Horace C. Wilkinson, of Birmingham.