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Correction of Certain Press Reports of His Remarks to the S.C. Sheriffs' Association Concerning Movies

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, CORRECTING CERTAIN PRESS REPORTS OF HIS REMARKS TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION CONCERNING MOVIES. JULY 29, 1949.

It appears that my remarks before the Sheriffs' Association in Charleston yesterday were misinterpreted, as I did not intend to convey the impression that I was advocating state control or censorship of movies.

One of our most prominent sheriffs at the meeting stated that a recent movie had portrayed an officer of the law in a very unfavorable light, and said something should be done to prevent this. I concurred with his position, and suggested that steps be taken to have such portrayals of law enforcement officers discontinued. I had in mind that the matter should be taken up with the movie people and that they be requested not to portray our fine law enforcement officers in such a manner, since this is detrimental to society. If results could not be obtained in this way then other steps could be taken, and I promised to go to the bat and help them all I could to remedy the situation.

I feel that our courageous law enforcement officers should be portrayed in their true role of fearless, capable, decent men, who often risk their lives in the interest of the public good.

In view of the known desire of the movie industry to regulate and censor its own productions, I feel certain the industry can be persuaded to accomplish this purpose without recourse to official censorship.