

STATEMENT BY SENATOR P. H. MCEACHIN OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, REPRESENTING THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, MARCH 9, 1950, 8:15 P.M., DEPARTMENTAL AUDITORIUM, WASHINGTON, D. C., AT EXERCISES CELEBRATING SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPITAL AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I want to express our deep appreciation for the honor bestowed upon us by the dedication of these Sesquicentennial exercises to our State, of whose record we are so proud, and to which we are so ardently devoted.

South Carolina's importance in the making of the new nation over which this federal capital was to preside can hardly be said to have been excelled by that of any other. For more than a hundred years before Washington was established, South Carolina had borne the principal burdens of defending the Southern frontier against the encroachments of Spain and France, thus holding a vast territory that later became part of the United States. In the movement leading to the separation of the 13 colonies from England, South Carolina was the first to embody the new principles of self-government in a thorough and complete Constitution. In the long war that followed, no other state was called upon to make greater sacrifices of life and property. The very mention of such names as Rutledge, Gadsden, Hayne, Laurens, Jasper, Moultrie, Sumter, and Marion, bears witness to

Original Statement.  
J. Strom Thurmond  
Governor



name, but it is interesting to note that the name it did choose, Columbia, was later given to the federal district around Washington. Finally, I should also point out that the architect who designed the South Carolina State House, James Hoban, later drew plans for the White House and other buildings in Washington.

Such were the ties between the State of South Carolina and the early history of the federal capital. They were surface ties, it is true, but they were indicative of the deeper bonds of devotion to the great dream of a federal republic in which men could be equal and free under a system of government the world had never known before.