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Statement for governors' opinion survey on overlapping state-federal tax systems

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR GOVERNORS' OPINION
SURVEY ON OVERLAPPING STATE-FEDERAL TAX
SYSTEMS IN NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE.
MARCH 29, 1950.

One of the nation's greatest needs is for an adjustment
in spheres of taxation which will clearly define fields of taxation
rightfully belonging to federal and state governments. We have
permitted our various areas of taxation to become confused, and
the Federal Government has gradually usurped practically all tax
sources. Our tax system is today a hodge-podge of overlapping,
duplication, and injustices.

If the usurpation of tax fields by the Federal Government
continues unchecked, it will inevitably turn our states into mere
subdivisions, or departments, of the central government. On the
other hand, if states are given back the fields of taxation that
are rightfully theirs, they can do the jobs their people demand
without federal assistance, and do them better and cheaper than
the Federal Government.

An immediate study should be made of this question,
looking toward permanent adjustments. Meanwhile, prompt consideration
should be given to the following:

1. Repeal of federal taxes on automotive transportation,
including gasoline, oil, and tires and tubes.

2. Return of the admissions tax to the states and
localities, where it belongs.

3. Repeal of the war-time federal excise taxes.