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Announcing Candidacy for the United States Senate

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE. APRIL 29, 1950.

I will be a candidate for nomination to the United States Senate by the Democratic Party of South Carolina in the July 11 primary. I subscribe to the principles of the Democratic Party of South Carolina as enunciated in the State Democratic Conventions in 1948 and 1950 and shall abide by the rules of the party.

These are critical times. We are confronted with serious international conditions which are not only snuffing out the liberties of peoples in other lands, but menace our own democracy. The threat of war hangs over the world and our people are worried over the catastrophe it would bring in this age of the atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Within our own shores the American system of government is being challenged by those who would centralize in Washington the powers that rightfully belong under the Constitution to states and local governments. Geared with this drive for a super central government is a determined effort to socialize many aspects of our economy. The very institutions which have made us what we are - a great, prosperous and progressive nation - are under attack.

In these times, South Carolina can confer no higher honor or place no greater responsibility on one of her citizens than by bestowing upon him the power and prestige of a United States Senator. The Senate remains the greatest deliberative body in the world. It has vast powers to investigate and legislate, tax and appropriate, confirm or reject executive appointees, ratify treaties and provide for the national defense. Those who represent South Carolina in the Senate can exercise tremendous influence in preserving peace, instilling character and efficiency in government, and in molding public opinion behind those principles and institutions which are essential to the perpetuation of our republic.

Realizing this, it is with humility that I offer for the Senate. I do so believing that my experience as a teacher, State Senator, Judge,
veteran of the last war, and as Governor for four years, equips me to discharge the duties of this high office and render service to the people of South Carolina and the nation.

In the campaign, I will submit to the people the measures I will advocate, the principles of government to which I subscribe, and the policies which I will follow if elected to the Senate. I will present my views frankly and completely. I will sail under no false colors. I will not engage in hypocrisy.

If honored with a seat in the Senate, I will not be one kind of Democrat in Washington and another kind of Democrat in South Carolina. The people will have full opportunity to contrast the public records of those who seek their support for the Senate, and then choose the candidate they think will best represent the people of South Carolina, their ideals and traditions, as United States Senator.

In entering this Senatorial race, I do not do so in ignorance of the opposition that will be encountered.

Every outside influence that hates and seeks to destroy our way of life in South Carolina will attempt by every means possible, whether by slush funds, or propaganda, or absentee control of bloc votes, to dominate this election, in order to make it appear to the nation that our people have repudiated the courageous stand that our State took for state sovereignty in 1948.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other bloc organizations have been encouraged by the rulings of a turncoat federal judge who has forced into our primary thousands of voters who do not believe in the principles of the Democratic Party of South Carolina.

Their emissaries have already invaded our state to line up support for candidates of their choice, and they have even grown so bold as to publicly announce the candidates that they have marked for defeat. Of course, the people of South Carolina know that because of the fight I have made for States' Rights I will not receive support from these groups. I will depend on the support of the good people of this State who take orders only from their heart and conscience.

With the real Democrats of South Carolina, I shall make the fight
for Americanism and against socialism; for the right of the people of a state to govern themselves and against further centralization of power in the national government; and for the right of South Carolinians to choose who is to represent them in the Senate without interference and dictation from far-away bosses who seek to control the government of the United States by having puppets instead of men in the Congress.

There will be no middle ground in this campaign. The time has come when our people must take sides and stand up and be counted if we are going to retain home rule, block the trend toward socialism, and preserve our way of life.

To those ends, I shall wage this campaign and seek the support of every true South Carolina Democrat.