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Statement at Senate campaign meeting about Olin Johnston supporting Truman

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT WINNSBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, JUNE 7, 1950.

My opponent tries to explain why he ran back to Washington uninvited to welcome the President after his election in 1948. They tell me that when the Presidential train rolled into the Union Station, my opponent was so anxious for the President to see him that he knocked over an admiral, two generals, and three cabinet officers getting into the front row. The Washington Post called his presence "a strange sight."

Of course, we all know that the junior Senator was merely trying to court favor. He was willing to crawl back to the President, apologize for what he had done in opposing his nomination, all to get a few crumbs from the White House table.

The junior Senator said he rushed back to Washington to welcome the President because he respected the office of President. I am sure that the senior Senator from South Carolina also respects the office of President; but he did not rush back to Washington with the junior Senator to put on a show and try to make the country believe that South Carolina was not sincere in the stand it took in the 1948 election.

I respect the office of President. I accepted the invitation extended to me as Governor to participate in the President's inauguration in 1949. But when my wife and I rode by in the South Carolina car, I found to my regret that the President of the United States did not respect the office of Governor of South Carolina.

No, my friends, the junior senator can't come back down to South Carolina when he is looking for votes, and make the Democrats believe that he acted in their interest when he bolted those presidential electors named by the Democratic Party of South Carolina, the policies of which he had sworn to support.