

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR J. STROM THURMOND
ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF A
NEW SNUB BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN JUNE 17, 1950

I have read the Associated Press story from Washington published in our papers today that Governor Wright and I were not invited to the White House for lunch with the other Democratic Governors following the National Governors' Conference, because we led the South's fight against the Truman civil rights program.

I am not surprised. A national congressional election is coming up, and it is time once again to beat the tom-toms against the South in order to win minority bloc votes in doubtful states in the East and West.

The only reason I notice this petty political affront to the Governors of the two most democratic states in the nation is because it is symbolic of something which should concern every Democrat who believes in the principles upon which our Party was founded, and who believes the 48 states have the sovereign right to govern their internal affairs.

Every day the issue becomes clearer. Mr. Truman and Chairman Boyle of the Democratic national committee, who is also a product of the Pendergast ring, are determined to force their program of mixing the races down the throats of the people of the South, and they will even stoop to the Kansas City level of politics to accomplish their end.

The South can cravenly bow to this challenge to our way of life, which comes from a perverted leadership of the national Democratic Party, or the South can fight back.

I firmly believe the South will fight back and use every power at its disposal to preserve our Constitutional right to govern and manage our internal affairs.

So far as South Carolina is concerned, I know our people will fight back. They fought back in 1948 when 90 percent of the real Democrats of our state voted to stand by the principles and policies of the Democratic Party of South Carolina, and against those of the national Democratic Party. The 1950 convention of

the Democratic Party of South Carolina said there would be no retreat from this position.

When the President refuses to recognize the Governor of South Carolina at a White House function, he does not snub the individual, but he insults the people of South Carolina. This latest incident comes on the eve of a Democratic primary in South Carolina. Apparently, what Mr. Truman is telling the people of South Carolina is that if they elect a Governor and Senator he does not like, the State of South Carolina will be snubbed by the White House.

The people of South Carolina will give Mr. Truman their answer to his latest insult when they go to the polls July 11.