

ADDRESS BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR
U. S. SENATE ON STATE-WIDE RADIO BROADCAST ORIGINATING
AT STUDIOS OF WIS, COLUMBIA, S.C. JUNE 20, 1950 7:00 P. M.

My fellow South Carolinians:-

The Supreme Court of this state has held that "the public conduct of every public man is a matter of public concern." "When one becomes a candidate for an office his character for honesty and integrity and his qualifications and fitness for the position are put before the public, and are thereby made proper subjects for fair comment."

These holdings of our courts show just how ridiculous it is for a candidate running for the highest public office in the gift of the people of South Carolina to try to claim immunity from discussion of his public record in this campaign.

What I have said about my opponent's past actions are facts taken from the record. These things bear on his fitness to hold high public office. The people have a right to know these things. I have never engaged in personalities in any campaign, and I shall not do so in this campaign.

I have submitted my own record and challenged my opponent to discuss it. I have discussed my opponent's public record and I intend to continue to discuss it.

Throughout this campaign my opponent has talked a great deal about state finances. When the campaign opened at Lexington, he said that the state had a \$12,000,000 surplus when he left the Governor's office. A few days later he said it was a \$15,000,000 surplus. A day or so passed, and he said it was a \$20,000,000 surplus, and even distributed hand bills using this \$20,000,000 figure. I waited patiently to see just how far out on this limb he would go. Finally, he has put an ad in the newspapers of the state in which he says, and I quote

"Left \$20,000,000 surplus in 1938."

Now, let us see how true is this statement by my opponent.

Governor Burnet Maybank succeeded my opponent as Governor in January 1939. If my opponent left a \$20,000,000 surplus, Governor Maybank and the General Assembly were unable to find it. Instead, the General Assembly convened in January 1939 and adjourned on July 1, 1939, after the longest session in the state's history. The reason for this long session is set forth in Governor Maybank's message to

Our people are seeing more clearly every day that if the Democrats of South Carolina split up, the organized minority bloc voters will set themselves up in our state as the balance of power, as they have done in New York and other states.

We have received reports from each of the 46 counties, and our leaders tell us that our people are not going to run the risk of having the will of the real Democrats of South Carolina over-ruled by outside regimentation of voters who have no right to be in our primary because they are opposed to the social and educational separation of the races and favor the Truman program.

We whipped these Trumanites in South Carolina in 1948, and with the continued good work of our friends in every county we will win a victory on July 11th for the cause of South Carolina Democracy which will make the whole nation stop, look and listen and realize once and for all that South Carolina is not going to accept the Truman program to destroy our civilization in the South or have a Trumanite in the United States Senate.

Thank you - and good night.