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Address at Senate campaign meeting. Senate committee assignments

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT KINGSTREE, JUNE 23, [1950]

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

My opponent does a lot of talking about what he will do if re-elected to the Senate. You hear him talk about introducing bills. Well, any Senator can introduce a bill and the Senate has a drafting service which will write it for him. Why does he not tell you about bills he has passed, not introduced, for the benefit of South Carolina. I will tell you the reason, there have been none.

My opponent has already had six years in the Senate, and you will search hard and long to try to find anything which he has done for the people of South Carolina in those six years.

My opponent tries to defend his desertion of the Democratic Party of South Carolina to support President Truman in 1948 by saying he had to run out on the Democratic Party of his state to protect his committee assignments.

Senator Burnet R. Maybank did not desert the Democratic Party of South Carolina to support Truman. He carried out instructions of the State party by refusing to take his seat on the Democratic National Committee and he is today Chairman of the powerful Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Congressman Dick Richards of South Carolina made speeches for the States Rights movement and he is today the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Not only that, but Congressman Richards is one of the Democratic whips in the House, a position of party responsibility.

Congressman Mendel Rivers spoke for the Democratic Party of South Carolina and the State Rights movement and he is a ranking Democrat on the House Armed Forces Committee.

Your own fine congressman in this district, Johnny McMillan,
did not desert the Democratic Party of South Carolina and he is Chairman of the House Committee for the District of Columbia and how those Trumanites hate him because he will not turn Washington over to the colored people.

I could go on naming other Democratic members of Congress who opposed Truman and today hold important Democratic committee assignments. The Truman administration may refuse to recognize the democratic party of South Carolina, but the House and Senate still recognize the Democratic Party of South Carolina and it will be a sad day in this nation if the Congress becomes a Truman rubber stamp as my opponent would have you believe it is, and reject Democrats because they carry out the principles of the Democratic Party of their State.

The people of South Carolina are not as gullible as my opponent thinks. He left the Democratic Party of South Carolina because he wanted to be a Trumanite and he did so after he told the people of South Carolina that no decent white Southerner could support the election of Harry Truman as President. He cannot cover up his betrayal by talking about committee assignments.

My opponent talks about what a great thing is his two and one half years seniority on the Senate agriculture committee. He was singing a different tune six years ago when he asked the people to turn the late Senator Cotton Ed Smith out of the Senate. Senator Smith was Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and had over 30 years seniority in the Senate but my opponent talked the people into defeating him.

No, my friends, my opponent violated the solemn oath he took when he was a candidate six years ago when he swore he would support the principles and policies of the Democratic Party not for one year but during the entire six years as Senator if the Democrats would so honor him.

My opponent ran out on the Democrats of South Carolina when
they trusted him with leadership and they are not going to trust him again with the highest office in the gift of the people of our state.