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Accepting the Liberty Bell Replica

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ACCEPTING THE LIBERTY BELL REPLICA, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, JULY 4, 1950.

With warm gratitude to the donors and the Treasury Department, I accept custody of this replica of our Liberty Bell for the people of South Carolina. This is an occasion without precedent. We are making history here today, adding a significant chapter to the story of our most hallowed national relic.

There are two physical symbols of our Liberty and Independence - one is the Statue of Liberty, the other the Liberty Bell. It is a universal human trait to want to see a physical symbol of our faith, be it religious or political. That is why I consider these replicas of the Liberty Bell so important. For it is through these replicas that countless Americans who will never get to Philadelphia to see the original can stand before a faithful copy of the old Bell and be inspired to be better Americans, worthy of the heritage of freedom.

Let us never forget it, and what it means to us: Freedom, Independence, the dignity of man, equal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let us pray God that a thousand years and more from today our posterity will be standing before these bells, breathing the air of freedom in a world that
shares the blessings of freedom and peace with them. That can come to pass if we and each generation after us leave nothing undone that can be done to guard, defend and extend our freedoms.

In that spirit, I accept, sir, in the name of the people of South Carolina this replica of our hallowed Liberty Bell.