6-13-1950

Address for Senate campaign over state wide radio network

Strom Thurmond

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, 'Address for Senate campaign over state wide radio network' (1950). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 943. https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/943

For additional information about the collection, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
ADDRESS BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, OVER STATE-WIDE NETWORK ORIGINATING AT WORD, SPARTANBURG, S. C., JUNE 13, 1950, 7:00 P. M.

FELLOW SOUTH CAROLINIANS:

I have placed my candidacy for the United States Senate before the Democrats of South Carolina on the basis of my record of public service. I believe there is no better guide to what a man will do in high public office in the future than what he has done in the past. The people are entitled to know from a candidate's past record whether he regards public office as a public trust.

During my administration as Governor measures have been taken through executive and legislative cooperation to instill character, honesty and efficiency in our state government and reorganize it to make it a more useful instrument of service to our people; to end forever the disgraceful pardon racket; to deflate the political hold on the state of the liquor ring; to bring new industries in great numbers into South Carolina, creating 50,000 new jobs and increasing our annual industrial payroll to over a half billion dollars; to foster peaceful and productive industrial relations, with less loss of man hours through industrial disputes than in any state in the union; to build more farm to market roads; to extend rural electrification; to promote better land uses; to inaugurate a new system of state agricultural markets; to clean up the Industrial Commission; to include coverage for occupational diseases under our workmen's compensation law; to make permanent the 9 months public school term; to vastly increase state support for our public schools, and to bring about an average increase in teachers salaries of 60 percent.

I have worked in cooperation with the other Southern
Governors in promoting regional education, rationalizing freight rates, and preserving states rights. Last November the Southern Governors elected me chairman of the Southern Governors Conference, the first time a South Carolina Governor has been chosen as their leader, a recognition I deeply appreciated.

Tonight I want to discuss with you some of the grave national and international issues facing our nation, which it will be my duty as your Senator to pass upon. I do not intend to sail under any false colors in seeking their consideration of my candidacy, and the people know that Strom Thurmond will not act and talk one way in South Carolina and then act and talk a different way in Washington.

I believe in the United Nations, as the best way of keeping the door to peace always open. I will work to strengthen the United Nations and make it the effective instrument of world stability Franklin D. Roosevelt believed it would be.

I am no isolationist. I will support the Marshall plan and other measures in the cold war to stop the spread of Communism and avoid a shooting war. I will insist on careful screening of all expenditures, but I will not oppose a program intended to keep our sons and daughters from having to take up arms again and risk their lives on the field of battle. Any candidate who seeks to appeal to prejudice and plays the role of a demagogue on something as vital as winning the cold war against Communism is not fit to be a United States Senator. Any soldier who landed on the beaches of Normandy on "D" Day and went through the horrors of modern warfare will never oppose the plan devised by our great Chief of Staff, George Marshall, to prevent another World War in this atomic age.

I will fight to preserve constitutional government in the United States against the assaults of those who would break
down the right of the states and socialize America. I will use the full power of a United States Senator, including the power to confirm or reject appointments to the Supreme Court and other high federal offices to prevent further encroachments upon the right of the people to local self-government and home rule.

I will advocate greater economy in government, so that the financial burden of maintaining a strong national defense and winning the cold war will fall less heavily upon our people, and so that the war time excise taxes which deprive our people of so much of what they earn may be repealed.

I am opposed to deficit spending in peace time, and will work for a balanced federal budget, just as I have insisted on a balanced state budget as Governor.

I will fight socialized medicine, compulsory health insurance, and the socialization of American business. I shall especially support small business against destruction by monopoly.

I will introduce and work for the passage of legislation to provide relief from any federal judge who destroys his usefulness and brings his court into disrepute by engaging in vilification and abuse of the very people over whom he is called to preside.

I am opposed to any legislation which will give the Federal Government control over our public school system. There is no such thing as State controlled federal aid for public schools, and those in Washington who are trying to get control of our public schools by promoting a federal subsidy for them know this full well. They know that the Supreme Court has held it is the duty of the Federal Government to control what it subsidizes. Not only would federal appropriations for our public schools place them and our children under the guiding hands of Washington bureaucrats, but restrictions prohibiting segregation are certain to be
applied, and therefore we would be paying school taxes to Washington and then could not use any of the federal funds for our public schools, because we are not going to permit mixing of the races in South Carolina. Therefore I shall oppose legislation to have the federal government subsidize our public schools.

I shall continue to oppose federalization of the national guard in peacetime.

I stand for the full recognition and protection of the right of collective bargaining between employees and employers. I shall oppose taking away from our working men and women the gains they have rightfully earned during the last two decades. I am opposed to repeal of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, commonly called the Taft-Hartley law. This law has many provisions in it which are highly beneficial to labor, as well as to management and the public generally. The amendments that may be proper to it can be considered by the Congress without outright repeal.

I favor the continuation of the federal farm program carrying out the basic principles of the 1938 Roosevelt Agricultural Adjustment act. I am opposed to the Brannan plan which President Truman is trying to force through a Democratic Congress, because it will nullify the fundamental principle of the Roosevelt farm program, which was to keep the maximum amount of control in the hands of local county committees rather than in Washington. The farmer must not be made dependent upon a government subsidy controlled by federal bureaucrats. He is entitled to the cost of production for his products plus a reasonable profit in the market place. To further stabilize farm income and protect the farmer against the hazards of weather, I shall vigorously support the development of a sound crop insurance program broad enough to take in all of our major crops.
There are other important questions which I will discuss with you during these weekly Tuesday night radio talks because I want the people of South Carolina to know the kind of representation they will have with Strom Thurmond in the United States Senate.

The people also have a right to know the kind of representation they have had from my opponent in the public offices he has held.

When this campaign opened, my opponent publicly said, and I quote:

"During the coming weeks you, the Democrats of South Carolina, will have every opportunity to contrast the public records of those who seek your support.

I accepted his statement at face value and proceeded to bring to the attention of the people important facts of my opponent's public record which can be compared with mine, and which it is his duty to deny or explain if he can.

I have shown that he violated the solemn oath which he took as a candidate for the United States Senate in the primary six years ago when he deserted the Democratic Party of South Carolina in 1948 in order to support Harry Truman for President.

I have shown that after the 1948 election he rushed to Washington to be on hand when the Truman victory special rolled in from Kansas City, and that he began at once to scheme with the Pendergast group to bring the Democratic Party of South Carolina under Truman control.

I have shown that he never once raised his voice in the Senate or elsewhere against President Truman's executive order to integrate the races in the armed forces.

I have shown that he supported the confirmation of J. Howard McGrath as Attorney General, and had his picture taken
with McGrath directing a toast to celebrate his elevation to this high office, although McGrath is President Truman's right hand man in stuffing the civil rights program down South Carolina's throat, and subsequently went before the Supreme Court in support of the cases of the National Association for advancement of colored people to outlaw racial separation of all kinds in the South.

I have shown that while my opponent was Governor a pardon racket flourished in South Carolina, during which he turned out of the penitentiary over 3,200 prisoners, including hundreds of murderers, rapists and other hardened criminals, and thereby undoing the work of the courts and juries and shaking the very foundations of law and order in our state.

My opponent has not welcomed these comparisons of his record with mine. His only answer is that he is waging a Christian Campaign. My opponent should be the last candidate in South Carolina to talk about a Christian Campaign. The people have not forgotten the vituperation and abuse he heaped on the late Governor Ibra Blackwood, the late Senator Cotton Ed Smith, and also on Senator Burnet Maybank. They have not forgotten how he attacked the late Ben Sawyer and called out the militia to drive the state highway commissioners out of the state capitol and set up bayonet rule in South Carolina.

My opponent cannot hide his record behind a hypocritical smokescreen. When he ran for Governor some years ago, he ran as a churchman and a dry, but he was no sooner in office than he signed an almost wide open liquor bill which caused liquor stores to spring up in South Carolina like mushrooms and enabled liquor dealers to become millionaires. He now engages in what he calls a Christian campaign and yet accepts the active support of the liquor interests he has befriended in the past.

The people have a right to know how my opponent has
conducted the affairs of his high public offices in the past, especially since he himself placed his record in evidence in this campaign. I am going to continue to discuss my opponent's public record during the campaign, and I again call on him to explain it if he can.

If my opponent continues to refuse to discuss his record and answer the criticism which has been hurled against it then he shall stand convicted at the bar of public opinion of betraying the trust the people of South Carolina placed in him.

In these times when our institutions and our way of life are under attack, our people must have representatives in Washington who stand for something, who will stand up and fight for the principles of South Carolina democracy, who will not try to play both sides of the street and shape their sails to catch every political wind that blows.

I appeal to every South Carolinian who believes in the principles for which we are fighting to join with us in this campaign and we will win a victory on July 11 which will let the nation know that South Carolina still stands for home rule, that we are determined to preserve our institutions and traditions, that we are going to stop the trend toward national socialism, and fight to recapture the National Democratic Party and restore it to the principles upon which it was founded.