

6-21-1950

Senate campaign speech. Marshall Aid

Strom Thurmond

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FLORENCE, S. C. JUNE 21, 8 P.M.

MARSHALL AID

I want to ask my opponent if he was voting in the interest of the South Carolina farmer when he was the only Democrat in the United States Senate to vote against the Marshall plan.

Everyone knows that we have sent little money to Europe under the Marshall plan. What we have sent for the most part has been American products, products of our mills and our farms. There have been more agricultural ^{products} sent than anything else and our farmers in South Carolina know that great quantities of their cotton and tobacco have been bought under the Marshall plan to be used in fighting the cold war against Russia.

My opponent says the only way to balance the budget is to cut out the Marshall plan. We could balance the budget by cutting out the fifteen billion dollars we are spending for our armed forces, but no sane man would advocate that. The Marshall plan is a part of our national defense. We are sending South Carolina cotton and tobacco over there to fight Russia in a cold war instead of sending South Carolina boys and girls over there to fight in a hot war.

General Marshall, General Eisenhower, General Bradley, and our other great military leaders say we must continue the Marshall plan as a part of our national defense. My opponent may know more than these great men, but I served under them in the last war and I am inclined to believe they know more about what is best for this country in fighting

Communism than my opponent does.

As United States Senator, I can assure the people of South Carolina that I will vote with Senator Maybank, Senator Russell and Senator George, and the other Democratic senators in helping win the cold war against Russia.

There are other ways to balance the budget without crippling our national defense and weakening this nation in its efforts to help suppress the spread of communism.

The only time my opponent has been economy-minded during his entire six years in the Senate was when the questions of ending American products, including South Carolina cotton and tobacco, to fight Communism and avoid another war, was before the Senate. He joined in with a hard core of Republican isolationists and was the only Democratic Senator to vote against the program.

Now he is playing the typical role of a demagogue in going about saying he believes in balancing the budget by cutting out an appropriation which is absolutely vital to our national defense. South Carolina is not going to stand for this kind of representation in the Senate. We have outgrown the days of isolationism in South Carolina and we have outgrown the days of the demagogue who seeks to win votes by arousing prejudice against a vital arm in this country's all out struggle to prevent Communism from engulfing the world.