

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO ACCURACY OF DREW PEARSON'S STATEMENT THAT HE MAY WITHDRAW FROM SENATE RACE. FEBRUARY 13, 1950.

I am advised that Drew Pearson last night undertook to report from Washington on political affairs in South Carolina. I am not surprised that Washington is attempting to develop so-called experts on South Carolina politics. Mr. Pearson, of course, would know nothing about any decision I have made on any subject at any time. When I am ready to make a statement as to my future political plans, I will make it directly to the people of South Carolina. I intend to make such a statement in the near future, probably after the South Carolina legislature completes its present session. It is well within the realm of possibilities that this statement will attest to Mr. Pearson's usual inaccuracies when he undertakes to report on South Carolina affairs from Washington.

And while on the subject, let me say that the wife of a South Carolina Federal Judge also undertook to report from Washington night before last on South Carolina affairs. Coming from another section of the country, she does not understand or appreciate our problems, but it is quite apparent that she is following the Truman line and speaks for the Trumanites in South Carolina. Since I offered the resolution which was adopted by the Southern Governors' Conference in 1948 opposing the Truman Civil Rights proposals, I have sought to warn the people as to the dangers of the Truman program and what it would ultimately lead to. Thus far, the President and his followers have gone no further than demanding abrogation of our state laws providing the separation of the races. Now they are becoming so bold as to advocate abrogation of our laws against inter-marriage of the races.

If it will be of any comfort to those who are inspiring these reports from Washington on South Carolina affairs, I can assure them that in our Democratic primary this summer, the Democrats of our State will be given a clear opportunity to choose between candidates who are following the President and those who are willing to stand up and be counted in opposition to his un-American, Communistic and anti-Southern program.

Original statement
J. Strom Thurmond

(26-11)