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Statement for Senate campaign meeting. Personalities

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR
THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AT ALLENDALE, S. C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1950, 11 A.M.

At the outset of this campaign I stated that I would not engage in personalities, and I intend to live up to that statement. I said that I would discuss my opponent's public record, and I invited him to discuss mine. A week or so ago in a news statement from Washington he stated that he wanted the people to compare his record with mine, and I gladly accepted his proposal.

Last week, however, when I mentioned only a few of the items in his record which the people are entitled to know about, and which he should try to explain in some way, if he can, he insinuated that I was engaging in personalities. He said he was going to wage a Christian campaign.

He has not challenged the statements I made about his record. If truthful and factual discussion of a candidate's public record sounds like personalities to him, then it must be a sorry record indeed.

My opponent should be the last candidate in South Carolina who should talk about waging a Christian campaign. The memory of our people is not so short that they do not remember the things my opponent said about the late Ben Sawyer and his associates in the State Highway Department. He claimed they were stealing. He even declared a state of insurrection to exist and called out the state militia and ousted the highway commission. But my opponent's own auditor went in to check the highway department and found
nothing wrong. The Legislature and the Supreme Court of South Carolina repudiated this rule by bayonet in our state, and forced my opponent's military-made commission to withdraw in favor of the duly and legally chosen state highway commission. When this happened, he did not hesitate to attack the courts.

The people have not forgotten the vilification and abuse which my opponent heaped upon the late Ibra Blackwood in the campaign of 1930. Governor Blackwood was a fine Christian gentleman, who left the Governor's office a poor man.

The people have not forgotten the type of campaign my opponent waged against the late Senator Cotton Ed Smith in 1938.

They have not forgotten how my opponent vilified the present Senior Senator from South Carolina in the 1941 campaign, and made reckless charges, and tried to prejudice the voters because Senator Maybank lived in Charleston.

In 1944 my opponent succeeded in defeating old Cotton Ed, who was then in declining health and near the end of a well spent life. To Senator Smith's everlasting credit, let it be remembered that he warned us of minority bloc elements and what was going to happen to our Democratic party.

I was overseas in the war during the 1944 campaign, and I do not know what kind of a campaign my opponent waged in defeating Senator Smith, but his record in other campaigns makes it crystal clear that his typical campaign is one of personal abuse and vil-

fications.
I do not intend to wage that type of campaign, but I do intend to continue comparing my record in public life with his in every county in this state.

My opponent's record does not entitle him to represent South Carolina in the United States Senate, and before this campaign is over, I will prove it to the complete satisfaction of the Democrats of this State.