Statement at Senate campaign meeting. What has he done?

Strom Thurmond

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My opponent talks about isolationism. He says -- "We are a part of the union."

What does that sound like?

Where have we heard that before?

Remember what a certain Federal Judge said when he struck down our white democratic primary. He said -- "It is time for South Carolina to rejoin the union."

Certainly we are a part of the union. We have never left the union. But as a sovereign state of this union, we have certain constitutional rights, and as your United States Senator, I am going to fight for those rights and I am going to fight those who would take them from us.

Congress still controls the purse strings of this government and as United States Senator, I will see to it that South Carolina receives what she is entitled to. I am not going to sacrifice my convictions and I am not going to stultify the office of United States Senator, in order to court favor from the bureaucrats who depend on the appropriations the Congress gives them.

And let me tell you one thing. A United States Senator who stands for something, who is not afraid to express himself, and who
will do what is right, will get more for South Carolina than a wishy-washy, kowtowing Senator who stands for nothing and shapes his sails to catch every political wind that blows.

I want my opponent to tell the people of South Carolina what he has accomplished since he has been in the Senate. He talks about what he can do if returned, but I want him to tell you what he has done during the six years he has been up there.

Six years is a long time. If he has made South Carolina a good Senator, as he claims, he certainly must have accomplished something.

So far, in this campaign he has claimed credit for only two accomplishments. He says he saved the cotton farmer of South Carolina by getting the acreage allotment restored which the Department of Agriculture took from them. Well, if he had been on the job, he would not have permitted such an unjust cut in the allotments for our farmers in the first place, and no legislation would have been needed.

The other thing my opponent takes credit for is killing the F. E. P. C. bill. I would not want to take any credit from him for co-operating with Senator Dick Russell and the other Southern Senators in stopping this iniquitous legislation proposed by the man my opponent helped to elect President on a Civil Rights platform.
The Junior Senator reminds me of a man who after poisoning the spring, then rushes down below and seeks to purify the water he himself has contaminated.

When my opponent supported Harry Truman and helped elect him President by raising money for his campaign, he was a party to poisoning the spring of Constitutional government in this country. I fail to see how he can claim any support from the people of South Carolina for helping kill the pet measure of the man he helped elect on a platform calling for the civil rights program.

But that is beside the point. My opponent has been in the Senate six years. I know of no act which bears his name, I know of no legislation he has introduced and passed for the benefit of South Carolina and the nation.

I call on him now to tell the people of South Carolina what he has done since he has been Senator which justifies his re-election to the highest office in the gift of our state.

I think my opponent may be correctly called a "do nothing Senator."