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Statement at Senate Campaign Meeting.
Background of F.E.P.C.

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT LANCASTER, S. C., JUNE 7, 1950.

BACKGROUND OF F. E. P. C.

In defending his bolting the Democratic Party of South Carolina in 1948 and supporting Truman, my opponent now contends that he believes in fighting within the national party. He has reversed his position since the spring of 1948 when he advocated that the South break away from the national party if Truman was renominated.

I feel it my duty to defend the Democratic Party of South Carolina from the criticism hurled at its action in 1948 and reaffirmed by the State Democratic Convention in April.

There was no misunderstanding in Philadelphia about the position of the Democratic Party of South Carolina. Credentials of the delegates to that convention, including those of my opponent, expressly provided that we participate in that convention with the understanding that if the convention nominated candidates for President and Vice-President who advocated the Civil Rights Program or adopted a platform containing a Civil Rights plank, we would not be bound to support the national party in the 1948 general election.

We told them what we were going to do if they tried to ram the Civil Rights program down our throats.

Now, today, I want to give to you the background of this Civil Rights Program.
The germ of the program is in the Constitution of the Soviet Republic. The first time it appeared in this country was in the Communist Party Platform in the Presidential race of 1928.

Now, I have before me here a photostatic copy of the Daily Worker, the Communist paper published in New York, of May 26, 1928.

If you will read this platform and compare it with what is going on in Washington, you will see why so many people in our country are worried over the socialistic and communistic trend of our Federal Government.

What I want to read you today is the demands in this Communist Party platform for enactment of the Civil Rights program. Here they are:

"1. Abolition of the whole system of race discrimination.

   Full racial equality.

"2. Abolition of all laws which result in segregation of Negroes. Abolition of all Jim Crow laws. The law shall forbid all discrimination against Negroes in selling or renting houses.

"3. Abolition of all laws which disenfranchise the Negroes on the ground of color.

"4. Abolition of laws forbidding inter-marriage of persons of different races.

"5. Abolition of all laws and public administration measures which prohibit, or in practice prevent, Negro children or youth from attending general public schools or universities.
"6. Full and equal admittance of Negroes to all railway station waiting rooms, restaurants, hotels and theatres.

"7. The War and Navy Departments of the United States Government should abolish all Jim Crow distinctions in the Army and Navy.

"8. Immediate removal of all restrictions in all trade unions against the membership of Negro workers.

"9. Equal opportunity for employment, wages, hours, and working conditions for Negro and white workers."

Now, my fellow Democrats, when the Democratic Party in 1948 embraced the Communist Party platform of 1928, then there was nothing for real Democrats to do but fight, and thank God we did fight.

Never before had a Democratic Party platform carried such Communistic demands; never before had a Democratic President tried to use the South as a whipping post to get bloc votes in doubtful states. In the mad scramble for those bloc votes, both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party ignored the Constitution and proposed to set a precedent which would absolutely destroy state sovereignty if such a program was enacted.

Yet, in the face of this, my opponent says the courageous stand taken by the Democratic Party of South Carolina was a mistake, and he could not go along with our presidential electors, but had to support those pledged to Harry Truman, who was running on a Civil Rights platform.
Well, ninety per cent of the real Democrats thought we were right. Ten per cent followed my opponent and the Trumanites. We are going to give him this ten per cent and we will take the ninety per cent.

No man can wear two faces under the same hat and get by with it in South Carolina. The people know that a vote for my opponent is a vote for Trumanism and a vote for Strom Thurmond is a vote for South Carolina democracy.