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Olin Johnston: Coat Tail Swinger

Strom Thurmond

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Coat tail Swinger

In previous campaigns, my opponent has demonstrated to the complete satisfaction of the people of this State that he has great ability to swing on the coat-tail of prominent people. But in this campaign, he has demonstrated that he is an all American coat-tail swinger -- the greatest of all time.

My opponent is not satisfied with trying to ride Harry Truman's coat-tail and getting support from the Truman minority bloc organizations in this campaign.

I have here a paid political advertisement (July 5, 1950) which shows my opponent is trying to ride five coat-tails, all at one time. One is the coat-tail of a former Truman cabinet officer, Senator Clinton Anderson, and, of course, that surprises no one.

But when my opponent publishes his picture along with Governor Talmadge of Georgia, Senator Russell of Georgia, Senator Maybank of South Carolina, and Senator Byrd of Virginia and tries to twist statements by these people and make it appear that they are supporting him in this campaign, he sinks to a new low level in political deception.

Everyone knows that Senators Maybanks, Russell and Byrd all supported the Taft-Hartley law, and voted to over-ride the President's veto. Everyone knows that my opponent, along with Senator Pepper, voted against the Taft-Hartley law and to sustain the President's veto. Everyone
knows the CIO Political Action Committee has Russell, Maybank, Byrd and Talmadge on their black list. Everyone knows the CIO Political Action Committee is the spear-head of the Truman program to break down all forms of segregation in the South and this organization has sent its hirelings and money bags into South Carolina, to help return my opponent to the Senate because he is a Trumanite.

I could not believe my eyes when I saw my opponent parading his picture in his paid political advertisements along with the pictures of Governor Talmadge, Senator Russell, Senator Maybank, and Senator Byrd.

I wired these men and asked them if they authorized the use of their pictures in my opponent's political advertisement. Common courtesy and honesty would have required that before my opponent sought to ride on the coat-tails of these men, by using their pictures in newspaper advertisement, that he secure their permission.

I have received telegrams and have them here from all of these men, and they say they did not authorize my opponent to use their pictures in his political advertisement, and I tell you they represent my opponent trying to drag them into this campaign and ride on their coat-tails.

The people of South Carolina are tired of coat-tail riding representation in the United States Senate. They want a Senator up there who will stand up on the floor of the Senate and fight Harry Truman and his program to destroy the South and, that is another reason they are going to kick out this Trumanite next Tuesday and send Strom Thurmond to the Senate.