Statement By Strom Thurmond, Candidate For The United States Senate, "Review", In Campaign Meeting, Columbia, S.C., July 7, 1950, 10 PM

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, IN CAMPAIGN MEETING, COLUMBIA, S.C., JULY 7, 1950, 10 P.M.

REVIEW

When this campaign began, I promised the people before it was over we would have in this state a re-baptism in South Carolina democracy.

Tonight I can tell you that the real Democrats of this state are aroused as they have not been since Wade Hampton's time. We have waged this fight for South Carolina democracy in every county and the response has been most gratifying.

As we come to this the final meeting of the campaign, I want to review with you as time will permit the developments of this campaign.

At the outset of the campaign, my opponent said he welcomed the opportunity to meet with me and compare our records as Governor and of public service and let the people judge which one of us was best qualified to serve South Carolina in the United States Senate. I accepted his statement at face value and I began giving to the people my record and also his record.

As I began exposing the public record that he has written, he began talking about waging what he called a "Christian" campaign. He would not even discuss the charges I made against his record. Instead, he tried to cover it up by saying I was slinging mud.

I told him and I told the people if I was slinging mud it was the mud of my opponent's record and he had to answer for it. I told the people that my opponent was the last man in South Carolina who should talk about waging a Christian campaign. In every race he has ever waged in this state he has engaged in vituperations and personal abuse. The people have not for-
gotten how my opponent denounced the late Governor Ibra Blackwood, the late Senator E. D. Smith, the late Cole Blease, the late Ben Sawyer and his associates in the highway commission. And they have not forgotten how he went over this state attacking Senator Burnet R. Maybank and tried to prejudice the people against him because he lived in Charleston.

My opponent soon saw he had to try to defend his record. He reverted to his old type campaign and said he was going to show the people how he could rant. Well, he has been ranting during the last few weeks but he still has not explained his record.

I ask you again tonight to look at his record and compare it with mine.

During the four year term of my opponent as Governor, approximately 31 million dollars was made available for public education. During my term approximately 120 million dollars was made available from state funds, or an increase of nearly 400 per cent.

When my opponent completed his four year term as Governor, the average teacher's salary was $730 a year and today it is $1825, an increase of 300 percent. The State's annual appropriation for public education has increased nearly 100 percent since I became Governor.

During my opponent's term as Governor, this state was torn with strife, the national guard was used as a political plaything by my opponent, and industry was afraid to come into this state.

During my term as Governor, we have had peaceful and progressive government; we have launched a program of re-organization of our government; we have maintained a balanced budget, raised the credit rating of our State.
in the money markets of the world, and created conditions which causes new
industries to want to come to South Carolina.

During my opponent's four-year term as Governor, there was only
42 million dollars invested in this state for industrial expansion. During
my term, 425 million dollars has been invested or allocated for industrial
expansion. We have created 50,000 new jobs for our working people and our
industrial payroll totals a half billion dollars, an increase of $100,000,000
annually since I became Governor.

Our state government is rendering more health services to our
people than ever before and every segment of our economy and every section
of the state is benefiting from the constructive program of my adminis-
tration as Governor.

My opponent has run big advertisements trying to mislead the people
about taxes. He knows the General Assembly avoided a sales tax and he
criticizes the increase tax on cigarettes, beer and gasoline. He did not
tell the people that had these taxes not been levied by the General Assembly
we would have had to reduce appropriations for our schools.

My opponent has said much about a $20,000,000 surplus he left in
the Governor's office in 1938 when the official records show there was an
operating deficit and his successor, Burnet Maybank, said he found the
state finances in a chaotic condition.