

COLUMBIA - (Special) - Strom Thurmond, Democrat write-in candidate for the United States Senate, last week named four legal methods that could have been used to allow the people of South Carolina to name a Senator to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Burnett Maybank. Instead, the Democratic Executive Committee, by a vote of 31-18, chose Edgar A. Brown of Barnwell to serve the entire six-year term.

Appearing with a panel of newsmen before a statewide television audience, the former governor listed these alternatives:

1.) The Committee could have ordered a primary and placed the name of the primary winner on the General Election ballots. The law provides that if a political party certifies its nominees 60 days before the General Election, the names of such nominees must be printed on the General Election ballot; but there is no prohibition against a political party certifying nominees within the 60-day period, which could have been done in this instance.

2.) The Committee could have nominated a candidate who would withdraw, then a primary could have been called. The primary winner would then have received the votes cast for the name on the printed ballot.

3.) The Committee could have ordered a primary, and if the time was too short to get the winner's name on the ballot, the Committee could have asked the Democrats of the State to write-in his name in the General Election November 2. Since people who vote in a primary take an oath to support the winner of that primary in the General Election, there could not have been any danger of anyone else

(more)

being elected over the winner of the Democratic primary.

4.) Mr. Brown could have resigned after he was chosen the nominee, and a primary would have been ordered; and the votes cast for this nominee would have gone to the winner of the primary.

Meantime, the Executive Committee's nominee refused for the second time to meet Mr. Thurmond for a joint speaking engagement. Both were invited to address the Spartanburg League of Women Voters, and Mr. Thurmond immediately agreed. Mr. Brown refused.

Candidate Thurmond accepted numerous other invitations to speak last week. In Greenville, he told a large audience that his election "will re-affirm the right of the people to vote, and will repudiate forever the precedent set by the Committee in denying the people the right to vote.

"A vote for me is a vote for a primary," he asserted.

Over the State, Thurmond supporters continued to hold enthusiastic mass rallies, and to arrange television and radio speeches for their candidate. He was seen and heard in Columbia, Greenville, Charleston and Florence.

In Columbia, Supporter Tom Wofford, Greenville attorney, told a crowd of 400 people that Mr. Brown not only voted for himself when nominated by the Executive Committee, but had his proxy from Barnwell County vote for him also, thus casting "two votes against a primary, as many votes as any other two counties in the State."

James H. Hammond/
Former State Senator/told the same group that:

"Between Mr. Brown and Mr. Thurmond, I'd vote for Thurmond every time." Senator Hammond is a native of Barnwell.