

STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND FOR AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

My campaign for Senate seat left vacant by death of the Hon. Burnet R. Maybank has been based mainly on the principle of free elections and the right of the Democrats of South Carolina to nominate their own choice for the Senate in a primary.

When the 31 committeemen on Sept. 3 voted against holding a primary, they abused the discretion given them under the law, as they could legally have provided for a primary. In response to the request of ^{many thousands of} people from all over South Carolina I entered the race to preserve our right of suffrage.

I have conducted this campaign entirely upon the issues and pledged to the people that I will resign in 1956 in time for them to nominate by Democratic Primary the candidate of their choice for the Senate. My opponent, the nominee of the 31 committeemen, and all other candidates will have the right to enter that primary. I will offer for re-election.

At that time the people will regain the power taken from them by the committee.

From time to time in this race, my opponent has attacked me viciously. His adherents have done so in devious ways. I shall make no criticism of them. On November 2 the people of South Carolina will make their decision.

As a loyal South Carolina Democrat I will adhere to its principals and vote with the Democrats in organization of the Senate.

I shall fight for full 90 percent parity for basic farm commodities.

I shall always vote for strong defenses and for sufficient appropriations to support them and believe we must continue to

strengthen our alliances to combat the godless communists who seek world domination. As a combat veteran, I know the horrors of war and shall do all in my power to preserve the peace.

As State Senator and Governor, I worked for the interests of the working man and shall continue to do so in the United States Senate. Social security should be expanded to cover a greater part of our population.

As a U. S. Senator my obligation will be to all the people of South Carolina and of America. I shall work to carry forward the interests of the entire State.

In this race my conscience has been my guide. I have no fears of the result.