

Script for Gren Seibels program, Monday, ~~August~~ November 1, 1954,  
by Strom Thurmond.

I regret that my opponent has seen fit to attack me and Governor Byrnes at this eleventh hour of the campaign. Governor Byrnes made his statement 10 days ago.

Several months ago, Governor Byrnes declared that he would never again be a candidate for an elective office, but he said that he did reserve the right to express his views on public affairs from time to time.

I am proud that he has confidence enough in me to have endorsed me for election to the Senate.

~~The committee~~ There is but one issue in this campaign -- whether the 600,000 registered voters of South Carolina shall be denied the right to elect the Senator of their choice.

When the 31 committeemen voted to deny the people a primary, the people rebelled. I am more confident tonight than when I entered this race, at the urging of thousands of people who communicated with me, that this rebellion of the people will be successful tomorrow -- that I shall be elected as their candidate.

Then in the 1956 primary, just 19 months away, the people will have the opportunity to vote for the man of their choice. They will have that opportunity because I have pledged to resign in time for the primary to be held.

The committee candidate refused to withdraw so that a primary could be held in the 60 days between Sept. 3rd and Nov. 2nd. He also has refused to resign in time for the primary in 1956.

I do not see how any person who believes in a primary can support my opponent who has thus denied you the right to a primary.

AS a South Carolina Democrat, I will vote with the Democrats of the Senate in the organization of that body. I shall give 100 per cent support to the platform of the South Carolina Democratic Party on the issues which arise in the Senate.

In this brief time I cannot present a full statement of my platform, so I ask you to listen tonight at 9 o'clock when I shall appear on WIS-TV and a state-wide radio network for that purpose.

I appreciate the way South Carolinians have supported me in this campaign in defense of a principle.

My campaign has been based entirely upon the issues. However, my opponent and his cohorts have seen fit to attack me incessantly and unfairly.

Vicious anonymous letters and handbills have been circulated against me and my supporters. A resort to such tactics is clear evidence that they are desperate.

I warn you to expect additional <sup>eleventh</sup> ~~hour~~ hour attacks.

But the people of South Carolina will not be ~~denied~~. <sup>Received for these acts of desperation</sup> The committee which denied you the right to vote in a primary cannot prevent you <sup>winning</sup> from/victory tomorrow.

Threats and intimidation serve only to arouse a courageous people like South Carolinians.

When you enter the voting booth, only your conscience can determine how you cast your ballot. I am confident of the result.

*Neither will they be denied the objective of this campaign.*