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Message to voters upon Senate victory

Strom Thurmond

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My fellow South Carolinians:

I am happy but I am humble.

I want to congratulate you at this moment on your great victory. You have fought the good fight for true democracy. You have won over odds which two months ago appeared almost insurmountable.

I have never felt more humble in my life because I realize that every vote cast in my name today was a vote cast for a principle. Today you gave me your support because in that way you could use me as the instrument to defend your precious right to nominate your Senator in a Democratic primary.

I want to reiterate my promise to you that I will resign in 1956 so that you can nominate your Senator in that primary. You will then have the opportunity to nominate the man of your choice for the four years remaining of the six year term for which our friend Burnet Maybank had been nominated.

In the meantime, with your help and with God lending us wisdom, I shall try to represent the people of South Carolina in the United States Senate as to reflect credit upon the State and justify the confidence you have shown in me.

Again, I say I am happy but I am humble.