

STATEMENT BY MR. THURMOND, Nov. 2, 1954 -- 12 Noon

I have no personal knowledge of what occurred at the voting precinct at Barnwell, but I do know Mr. Marvin Smith, and he is a man in whose character and truthfulness I have the utmost faith. I am certain that Mr. Smith, who is a lawyer, would do nothing to provoke an attack.

In addition to the Barnwell incident, I have also had it called to my attention that Mr. Rudolph Thigpen and Mr. Jesse Smith, who went to Blackville in Barnwell County to serve as poll watchers, were ordered completely out of the building where the polls were and thus were denied their legal right to watch the voting and act as watchers.