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Senate campaign speech draft

Strom Thurmond

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My fellow Democrats of South Carolina:

Thirty-one members of the State Executive Committee attempted to name a senator for a six year term in the United States Senate without a vote of the people in a primary.

This is the first time in the history of South Carolina that since this happened, our primary system was established, that our people have been denied the right to vote. As a result of this arrogant action our people were aroused with indignation from the mountains to the sea. They demanded that someone lead the fight for the right to vote.

In response to state-wide appeal from Democrats in every section of the state, I announced for the Senate my name to be used as a write-in candidate.
I ask your support for this high office on the basis of my record of public service. I am proud of the accomplishments of my administration as Governor for working people of South Carolina.

The Industrial Commission was reorganized to better protect awards to working people in cases involving compensation for injuries and death.

The area trade school system was established to acquire training and thereby increase earnings.

An occupational disease law was passed providing benefits to persons suffering from diseases contacted because of employment.
Improvements made in the state law relating to wages and hours of workers and working conditions.

I worked hard to bring new industries to our state and as a result 60,000 new jobs were created for our people.

During my term as Governor, the State enjoyed the promotion of better understanding between labor and management, resulting in the state experiencing one of the most harmonious periods in its industrial history.

As your senator, I will continue to work for the betterment of our laboring people.
Being a graduate of Clemson in agriculture I am tremendously interested in providing a sound and profitable economy for our farmers.

I graduated from Clemson in agriculture and taught agriculture in the public schools of state for 6 yrs. and I am familiar with the problems of the farmer and deeply interested in his welfare.
As your Senator I would endeavor to improve certain phases of the present drought relief program. Handling of applications for drought aid should be simplified and action should be speeded to make aid available as soon as possible.

Present provisions of the drought disaster program applying to cattle producers should be extended to also apply to hog and poultry producers.

The disaster program should cover not only droughts but also other crop disasters, such as the loss of peach crops by freezing.

Measures must be undertaken to promote soil conservation and to improve land and water use and management. The drought this year emphasizes such need.

I will vote for a firm 90 per cent parity for basic farm commodities. Either low prices or the loss of one crop sets a farmer back for several years. If we are to maintain a prosperous national economy, we must have a prosperous agricultural economy.

The Congress should enact laws to encourage expanded exports of agricultural commodities. This is necessary if we are to restore our export markets to the point that our farmers may produce abundantly without creating burdensome surpluses, which always result in ruinously low prices unless assured of high parity supports.

Agricultural research should be greatly increased, including research in soils, fertilizers, cattle diseases, dairy and beef promotion, poultry culture, crop pests and diseases, and peach and watermelon diseases. Funds should be provided to carry out such a program to an effective degree.

Rural electrification must be extended until every farm home has been provided power and telephones should be made available to our farm families.
I am a Democrat running as a Democrat, I will vote with the Democrats in the organization of the Senate next January. As your Senator I shall be under no obligation to any political clique or ring/inside or outside of South Carolina. I will be a senator of all the people of South Carolina and I will not be a rubber stamp for those elements inside or outside the national democratic party who are trying to destroy our way of life in the South.

If you favor primary elections, if you oppose a small group of ring politicians trying to elect one of their own to the senate without a vote by the people, if you believe by reason of my experience and my conduct in
public and private life that I can ably represent you in the Senate, then I urge you to go to the polls next Tuesday and write in the name of STROM THURMOND as your choice for this high office.

I shall ever be grateful for your support and I shall work long and hard in serving you as Senator just as I have in the other public offices with which you have trusted me.

I shall at all times conduct myself in the Senate in a manner which will reflect credit and dignity to the state we love and honor.

Thank you very much.