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Thousands of Democrats in South Carolina are protesting the decision by 31 members of the State Executive Committee denying the Democrats of the State the right to vote for a Senator in a primary election. But the Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, Mr. Mitchell of Chicago, has usurped the rights of the Democrats of South Carolina and announced that the Committee ~~ppp~~ candidate should be the Party candidate.

Mr. Mitchell states that the National Committee will aid the Executive Committee candidate with money and will send speakers into the State.

I believe this announcement by Mr. Mitchell will be resented by every Democrat in South Carolina because I know the people of this State cannot be bought by this man from Chicago nor will they be dictated to by him.

In my announcement I asked the Committee candidate to withdraw and let the people vote in a primary election in which he and others could be candidates.

If the Committee candidate will not give the people an opportunity to vote and if the Committee will not meet to reconsider its action in refusing to hold an election, then the only recourse of the people is to vote against the Committee candidate in the General Election.

This is a fight for a principle. It is a fight for government by the people instead of by a small group of committeemen. I am willing to make that fight.

To prove my sincerity, I pledge to the people of South Carolina that if the Committee candidate refuses to withdraw and I should be elected in the General Election, I will tender my resignation in 1956 in time to let the Democrats of South Carolina nominate a United States Senator in the regular Democratic primary election. The candidate nominated would be formally elected in the General Election that year.

What happens to Mr. Thurmond, Mr. Brown or any other candidate in an

election is not of importance to the people of South Carolina. But it is of the greatest importance that the people should preserve for themselves the right to vote in a Democratic primary for the man they want to represent them in the United States Senate.