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PRESS RELEASE BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON ADDRESS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT 7:30 P. M., SEPT. 27, 1955, BEFORE LAURENS COUNTY CIVIC CLUBS.

Laurens, S. C., Sept. 27--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) told a large crowd at Laurens tonight that "neither the ADA nor any pressure outfit controls the vote of Strom Thurmond" in reply to criticism leveled at him by the "left-wing" organization, Americans for Democratic Action. The ADA recently scored him with a zero rating for not supporting the liberal position on seven issues selected by the ADA during the 1st Session of the 84th Congress.

The South Carolina Democrat took pride in being the only Democrat to receive a zero rating from the ADA in an address prepared for delivery before a joint meeting of all the civic clubs in Laurens. In his address, Thurmond reviewed the legislative accomplishments of the 1st Session. He described the session as having accomplished "much good."

In lashing back at the ADA, the write-in Senator said:

"On September 12 you might have seen a story in the newspapers concerning a survey made by the political pressure organization called Americans for Democratic Action -- the ADA. The ADA gave its views as to which members of Congress had voted as liberals on several issues selected by the ADA during the past session of Congress.

"I hope you noted that the ADA gave me a zero, because I am proud to be able to say that neither the ADA nor any pressure outfit controls the vote of Strom Thurmond. I believe the people

of South Carolina want me to represent their wishes in the Senate and not the wild-eyed schemes of any liberal or left-wing crowd.

"I promised you in 1954 I would vote my conscience, and that's what I did. I have found that the votes I cast on 52 principal issues placed me approximately in the middle of all the Democratic members of the Senate.

"I supported the President only 36 per cent of the time on matters inside our nation -- domestic issues. But on foreign policy I backed him 77 per cent of the time. That gave me an average of 60 per cent support of the President's policies on 52 roll calls.

"You might be interested to know that 22 other Democratic Senators, including the Acting Majority Leader and Senator Alben Barkley, had voting records equaling or exceeding mine in support of the President. There are 49 Democrats in the Senate, so I stood just above the average.

"In my own opinion, the people of South Carolina are better judges than the ADA of how Strom Thurmond voted and how well they liked his votes."

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