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Remarks on CBS Capitol Cloakroom about states rights

Strom Thurmond

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States Rights is one field in which we need no federal legislation. On the contrary, in order to permit more state rights we need far less federal legislation and federal delving into the rights reserved to the states by the Constitution. Legislation here is not the answer at all, but rather a return to the original concepts embodied in the Constitution.

Year after year, states rights have been reduced as the federal government has become more powerful and centralized as it encroached upon the rights of the states. This encroachment is one of the greatest threats to our traditional American way of life. I have studied this problem of federal encroachment for many years. It is a threat to the foundations of American democracy because it is a violation of a fundamental provision of the Constitution.