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Strom Thurmond reports to the people, Vol. II

Strom Thurmond

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I think that President Eisenhower's message shows that he has taken due note of two of the most important problems with which we are faced at this session of Congress—the continued necessity for a strong defense establishment and the vital need for farm legislation. I am giving serious study to his and all other proposals for improving the welfare of our farmers. As he stated, "There is no single easy solution." The Congress must make every effort possible to solve the problems of surpluses, declining farm prices, rising costs, and to expand domestic and foreign markets for farm commodities. Whatever proposals are made and whatever legislation is enacted, I believe that my resolution should be enacted to establish a non-partisan commission composed primarily of farmers to study the many farm problems and to make recommendations to the next Congress.

POLICY AGAINST COMMUNISM

The President has demonstrated by his message that he is a realist in dealing with the Communists. His statement that our policy must be "designed primarily to forward the achievement of our own objectives rather than to meet each shift and change on the Communist front" is reassuring.

BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSED

The President stated that he expected the budget to be in balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956 and that he would propose a balanced budget for the year ending June 30, 1957. He said that "a tax cut can be deemed justifiable only when it will not unbalance the budget," and that such a budget should make some provision for a reduction in our national debt. I shall be happy to see the budget balanced and I hope that some reduction can be made in the national debt. I also hope that unnecessary spending overseas and a greater exercise of economy in government at home can be effected and result in some reduction of taxes.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

I regret that the President has been persuaded to recommend the establishment of a commission to interfere in matters reserved by the Constitution to the control of the individual states. In his message he referred to allegations that Negro citizens are being "deprived of their right to vote" and subjected to "unwarranted economic pressures."

I have read in the newspapers of some instances where Negroes have attempted to exert economic pressure to obtain their objectives. However, the Federal Government has no right to try to force those Negroes to ride the buses or to stay off them, to trade in certain stores or not to trade in them. Nor does the Federal Government have the right to interfere in any similar instance that might involve white persons instead of Negroes. Both white and Negro citizens are subject to the police powers reserved to the states. The proposal to establish this commission is apparently a step toward further interference in matters which come under state authority.

Such a resolution shall never be passed as long as I am able to stand and fight on the floor of the Senate.
I regret that the President saw fit again to recommend federal aid for school construction, although he stated that federal aid "should in no way jeopardize the freedom of local school systems." On January 5th the newspapers carried a significant statement by a Democratic Negro Congressman from New York who also advocates federal aid to schools. He stated that if the Federal Aid School bill was brought up in the House, there would be sufficient names to attach an anti-segregation rider, preventing the allocation of funds to any school practicing segregation. We must recognize that control goes with the purse strings.

South Carolina has met its obligation in providing an equal education opportunity in her public schools regardless of race. The people of South Carolina themselves have paid for the equalization program. No other state has exerted as great an effort on behalf of its schools as South Carolina has in proportion to average personal income. Most states are richer than South Carolina. They can and should build the schools they need without federal aid, as our State did.

**BILLS INTRODUCED**

During the first week of Congress I introduced several bills and proposed an important farm resolution to be introduced this week. One bill would ban the service or consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard our commercial and service airliners in the interest of public safety. Another bill would deny tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to any organization which engages in the promotion of lawsuits to which it is not a party. This would promote fairness to other taxpayers not enjoying this privilege.

My farm resolution would authorize establishment of a non-partisan commission of farmers and others to study our farm problems and make legislative recommendations to remedy them. The commission would be virtually free of politics and would give our farmers a strong voice in determining our nation's farm policies.

**THE END**
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

STROM THURMOND

reports

TO THE PEOPLE

Committees: Interstate & Foreign Commerce
Government Operations
Public Works

Vol. II, No. 2

For Release January 18, 1956

ELECTORAL COLLEGE AMENDMENT

Many Americans who value their right to vote have been disturbed for years over the present method of voting in the electoral college, which determines the outcome of our presidential elections. Under the present system, the votes of millions of Americans do not count in our presidential elections because of the "winner take all" provisions regulating the voting in the electoral college.

During the past week I introduced legislation in the Senate which will accurately reflect the will of the people in electoral college voting. My proposed Constitutional amendment would apportion the electoral vote of every State among the three leading presidential candidates according to the popular vote received by the candidate's electors.

I can best outline the principal points contained in my plan by first explaining how the electoral college operates at present.

PRESENT PROCEDURE

The people now vote for a slate of party candidates for election to the national electoral college. The winning slate of elector candidates is given the power to vote the State's entire electoral vote in the electoral college. Each elector, however, retains the right to vote for the candidate of his own choosing.

Thus, under this system the 45 electoral votes of New York could go to one presidential candidate by a one-vote margin of the popular votes. If a half million voters supported the candidate who lost by one vote, then their votes would not be reflected in the electoral college voting. This clearly does not give effect to the will of the people. In addition, it discourages many citizens from voting when they know it is probable their votes will not count.

PLAN RETAINS ELECTORAL COLLEGE

My plan has seven principal points. First, it would retain the present electoral college without any change in its mechanics. By doing this, it would protect the rights of the States, as the Constitution now does, in choosing electors by a method determined by the individual States.

My plan would allow each successful candidate for elector to cast a vote in the electoral college in proportion to the total number of votes cast by the people for all successful candidates for elector. Under the system followed by the political parties in placing slates of candidates for elector on the ticket, this would mean, generally, that electoral votes would be limited to the top three slates.

S. C. HAS 8 VOTES

In South Carolina, which has eight electoral votes, it would be possible for 24 electors from three different slates to cast fractional votes. The fractional vote for an elector would be computed by determining what percentage the vote he received was
of the total vote cast in a state for all successful electors, and then applying that percentage to the total electoral vote allotted the State.

If the successful electors received 800,000 votes altogether and one elector won 80,000 of those votes, he would thus be entitled to vote one-tenth of the State's eight electoral votes. Thus, he would cast eight-tenths of a full vote. The other electors also would vote in proportion to the total number of votes cast for them.

As under the present system, my plan would also preserve the independence of the individual elector. Other good points in the present system would be retained. These include provisions for throwing the election into the House in the event no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes. A selection in the House would be made from among the top three candidates, with each State having one vote.

OTHER PLANS PENDING

Other plans pending before Congress would limit the selection in Congress to the two leading candidates, and would give more weight to the larger States by giving each member of Congress (House and Senate) one vote each. One plan would let Congress make the decision if no candidate receives more than 40 per cent of the electoral votes. The objection here is that this would make it possible for a candidate to be elected President by a plurality instead of a majority vote.

None of the other pending plans would accurately reflect the will of the people and at the same time maintain the rights of the States to manage their own elections. It is important that the electoral college be retained. It serves as a buffer between the States and the Federal Government, preventing federal interference in State election procedures. That is why I object to the proposal for abolishing the electoral college and placing the election on a popular vote basis.

Another feature of my plan is that it would discourage numerous splinter parties, such as exist in France today, causing such a weak and unstable government.

My resolution, S.J. Res. 116, is now pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

END
During the past week, President Eisenhower submitted to the Congress a balanced budget for the fiscal year 1957. It will total approximately $66 billion. The largest share, 61 per cent, will be used to maintain our national defense system.

In addition to proposing a balanced budget for 1957, the President has also stated that he expects to balance the budget for fiscal year 1956. Both budgets are expected to have small surpluses which will be used to help retire our nation's 278 billion-dollar debt.

I shall be happy to see the budget balanced for both years, and I also welcome a reduction in the national debt. In addition, I hope that unnecessary spending overseas and a greater exercise of economy in government at home can be effected and result in some reduction of taxes.

Included in the President's budget recommendations for 1957 is approximately $50 million for civil works and military construction projects in South Carolina. The proposed military spending in our State totals $30,968,000. These projects are scheduled for military installations at Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, Parris Island, and Sumter. The largest single item is $17,384,000 for rebuilding the old air station at Beaufort.

Recommendations for civil works projects include $10 million for construction of Hartwell Dam across the upper Savannah River Valley and $279,000 for dredging Port Royal Harbor.

The Commerce Department has agreed to survey South Carolina to determine whether our State can be certified for locating new defense industries under the Government's industrial dispersion program. The department will check the population and industrial concentrations in each county with a view toward qualifying the State as conforming to Government standards for dispersing defense industries.

Should our State qualify, this certification could be instrumental in bringing new defense and other industries to South Carolina.

At the request of the British Broadcasting Corporation, I presented the Southern viewpoint regarding the Supreme Court's segregation decision to BBC's many listeners on Wednesday evening. BBC officials asked that I make a recorded interview with Mr. Don Minifie of BBC so both sides of the question could be presented to the people of Great Britain. They had heard the other side previously.
Mr. Minifie said he and many Britons were impressed with the legal argument against the court decision. They were unaware of the fact that the same Congress which framed the 14th Amendment also established separate schools in the District of Columbia. This is the amendment which the court relied upon in handing down its 1954 decision.

Mr. Minifie asked me during the interview what alternatives would Southern whites suggest in view of the court’s rulings. I told him we would suggest a reversal of this decision and other recent encroachments on the rights of the States and a return to a strong and healthy respect for the Constitution as written by our forefathers.

-end-
PROPOSALS RECEIVE SUPPORT

I have been gratified by the favorable response I have received regarding two bills and one resolution I have introduced during this session of Congress. Many South Carolinians and others have written to express an interest in my proposals which would:

1. Ban the service of alcoholic beverages aboard airliners.
2. Deny tax-exempt status to organizations which engage in the promotion of lawsuits to which they are not a party.
3. Divide the electoral vote to reflect the popular vote for candidates for President.

S. 2845, the bill to outlaw alcoholic beverages on airliners, is pending before the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, of which I am a member. The tax-exempt bill, S. 2844, is pending before the Finance Committee. Congressman John Riley has introduced a companion to this bill in the House.

My electoral college resolution, S. J. Res. 116, is now before the Judiciary Committee. It is expected, however, that the Senate will soon consider this and other proposals for revising the method of voting in presidential elections.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT AWARDS

During the past week, I introduced another bill, S. 3037, which should receive favorable action by the Congress. It would prohibit the Federal Government from channeling defense contracts to surplus labor or "disaster" areas without accepting bids from other areas. This legislation would protect our free enterprise system by requiring the Government to award contracts on an impartial, competitive basis at the lowest cost to the Government.

Recently the Army issued invitations to manufacturers to bid on contracts to supply the Army with large quantities of webbings and tapes of a type manufactured in South Carolina. In these invitations it was stated that unless the bidder's plant was located in a disaster area the bid would not be considered for the contract award.

S C BY-PASSED BEFORE

I had previously known of this practice of setting aside certain percentages of contracts and assigning as much as 50 per cent to unemployment areas when the low bid was filed by another manufacturer. This was the first time a 100 per cent set aside had been called to my attention. This was not, however, the first time South Carolina industries submitting low bids had been by-passed because of this practice.

I immediately protested to Defense Mobilization Director Arthur S. Flemming against this policy. His reply, however, made it plain that the practice would be continued unless legislation were passed to outlaw the administrative orders permitting these
SC WINS CERTIFICATION

The Commerce Department has certified every county in South Carolina as conforming to the standards of the National Industrial Dispersion Program. This certification means that industries already located in the State are sufficiently dispersed so as not to create any potential target areas.

Our State is thus eligible for the possible location of more defense industries. In addition, this certification should aid our State Development Board and local industrial boards to attract more private industries to South Carolina.

BILL AFFECTING GI INSURANCE

I have joined Senator Russell Long (D-La.) and a number of other Senators in co-sponsoring legislation which would allow veterans to reinstate their lapsed GI insurance policies. The bill would give World War II and Korean War veterans a one-year period in which they could pay up premiums and put their policies back in force.

The End
The Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to present to the Senate either this week or early next week a new farm bill embodying proposals designed to alleviate our farm problems and to improve the welfare of our farmers. Our farm problem is one of the gravest situations facing the Congress and America today. The well-being and prosperity of the whole people of the United States is inseparably tied to the well-being and prosperity of a stable agricultural economy in this country. I hope the Congress will be able to effect a new farm program which will meet the changing problems and needs of agriculture.

MINIMUM COTTON ACREAGE URGED

Shortly before the committee began voting on various provisions of the bill, I joined Senator John Stennis (D-Miss.) in urging that our small cotton farmers be given a minimum cotton allotment. We suggested they be guaranteed four acres or 80 per cent of the highest planted acreage for the preceding three years.

This could be accomplished by creating a two per cent reserve at the national level. The reserve would be created by adding one per cent to the national cotton allotment and setting aside another one per cent from the national allotment. We urged that such a provision be written into the new farm bill or enacted as separate legislation.

SMALL QUOTAS AFFECT 16,830

I pointed out to the committee members that, in the allocation of cotton acreage for the crop year 1955, there were approximately 16,830 farmers in South Carolina who were allocated less than five acres, many of them less than two acres. These were not migrants or tenants, but were small landowners. In addition, 4,147 tenants were forced off the farms in 1955 due to acreage reductions. Cotton acreage was again reduced in 1956, and these same groups fared even worse.

If the provision for a two per cent reserve had been in effect for the 1956 crop, 38,005 farms in South Carolina would have received some additional acreage.

PROTEST TOBACCO CUT

At the same time I requested a minimum cotton allotment for our cotton growers, I protested against a proposal for calling a referendum among flue-cured tobacco farmers in an effort to cut acreage allotments which were announced last July. Congressman Harold Cooley (D-N.C.) has introduced such legislation, and it has been endorsed by the Department of Agriculture.

The tobacco growers have made their arrangements for the present crop year based on the allotments announced six months ago. Their share crop agreements have been made, their leases signed, their tobacco beds planted, and in many cases they have contracted for their fertilizer.
Although I am told by tobacco experts that further acreage reductions will be necessary next year, I do not believe it would be fair at this late date to expect farmers to accept a second reduction for this year.

COOLEY PROPOSAL UNFAIR

The Cooley Bill would require tobacco growers to vote on whether to accept a 20 per cent reduction below last year and have their crops protected by government support prices or whether they would lose the protection of price supports. That proposal is entirely unfair because, having been subjected to one acreage reduction for this year already, the farmers should not be placed in the position of accepting another reduction or losing the protection of price supports.

I am opposed to this bill and I shall vote against it if it should come up in the Senate for a vote.

THREE STATE CITIES SEEK ARMY TERMINAL

The Army is considering the placing of the Atlantic Transportation Terminal Command in a Southeastern city and I have urged Pentagon officials to place this command somewhere in South Carolina.

It was first reported that only one South Carolina city was being considered, along with cities in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. However, my conversation with the Pentagon verified that Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg are all in the running. Surveys of available office space and other requirements have been made in these three cities, as well as in 10 cities in the other three States mentioned.

My objective is to convince the Army that South Carolina is the best State for this terminal command and I shall exert every effort to do so. The selection of a particular city is entirely up to the Army, based on the data it has secured concerning the facilities available in each. I shall not recommend one South Carolina city over another.

The End
Vol. II, No. 6

FARM DEBATE TO BEGIN

On Monday, the Senate is expected to begin debate on the new farm bill as approved last week by the Senate Agriculture Committee. This legislation will be one of the most important matters to come before the Congress this year, as the economic welfare of our country is inseparably tied to a stable agricultural economy.

The main provisions of the bill include the following:

1. A return to 90 per cent of parity on basic commodities such as cotton, corn, peanuts, and millable wheat. Tobacco, another basic crop, is supported at 90 per cent of parity under present law. The other basic crop, rice, would be placed on a two-price system. All rice consumed in the United States, its possessions, and Cuba would be guaranteed 90 per cent supports by the government. The basic cotton staple for price support purposes would be changed from the present 7/8 inch middling to the average or about 16/17th inches, middling.

2. Creation of a dual parity. Parity prices would be figured on the higher of two formulas. An older formula was replaced this year by a newer one which had the effect of lowering parity prices on most crops. Under the committee bill, farmers could choose between the old and new formulas.

3. Establishment of a voluntary soil bank program. A total of $750 million would be authorized to pay farmers this year for taking out of production part of their allotted acres of corn, cotton, rice, burley and flue-cured tobacco, and wheat. The Administration has indicated farmers would receive approximately 50 per cent of the support price for crops not grown. The acreage-reserve phase of the soil bank would be authorized for 4 years. Safeguards were written into the bill to protect the interest of tenants and share-croppers on land put in the soil bank.

4. Establishment of a conservation reserve as another phase of the soil bank program. Under this phase, farmers would be paid $350 million this year to shift marginal land to grass, trees, and other such crops. The Administration has indicated farmers would receive up to $25 an acre for building up their soil and $10 an acre annual rent for keeping it out of production for periods up to 10-15 years.

5. Orderly sale of surplus cotton on the world markets at competitive prices in order to re-establish our historic share of these markets. This is a part of Senate Bill 2702, which I introduced last year. This section of the bill would stimulate the export of our surplus cotton stocks.

6. An increase in price supports for dairy products from 75 to 80 per cent of parity. In addition, the base period of the parity formula would be changed to a time more favorable to dairy farmers.
7. **Creation of an acreage protection program for small cotton farmers.** This would be accomplished by setting aside a one per cent reserve from the national allotment in an effort to guarantee every cotton farmer a four-acre minimum allotment or 100 per cent of his acreage for the preceding three years.

**STATES' RIGHTS BILLS OFFERED**

During the past week I co-sponsored two measures with Southern Senators which would protect the States against federal encroachment on the rights reserved to them by the Constitution. One of the proposals, Senate Joint Resolution 137, would virtually reverse the illegal and unconstitutional ruling of the Supreme Court in the school segregation cases. The other, Senate Bill 3143, provides that no Act of Congress shall be construed as invalidating a State law unless the Act contains an express provision to that effect.

Both measures have been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. I hope it will be possible to persuade the committee to hold hearings on these proposals so interested South Carolinians will be able to give their views on States' Rights and constitutional government.

-**END**-
This is an important year for South Carolina and for the Nation because, in addition to other things, it is Presidential election year. We should remember that democratic processes by which candidates are nominated for President start at our own doorsteps.

If you want to have a voice in the selection by the Democratic Party, you should attend your Democratic precinct meeting on Saturday, February 25. Delegates will be elected from the precincts to attend the County conventions and delegates from the County conventions on March 3 will be elected to the State Democratic Convention in Columbia on March 21.

The delegates elected at the State Convention to represent South Carolina's Democratic Party at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago in July will have a very serious and important task.

TWO-THIRDS RULE NEEDED

South Carolina delegates should go to Chicago determined to seek re-adoption by the Convention of the rule which would require a vote of two-thirds of the delegates to nominate the Democratic candidate. The adoption of the two-thirds rule would make it possible to prevent the nomination of a person who is antagonistic to the views of the South. Also, the South would have a strong voice in party matters again and Southern views would be recognized in the party platform.

Some elements of the National Democratic Party have made political capital of the segregation issue, just as have members of the other major political party. South Carolina must send delegates to Chicago who are prepared to fight against this radical faction of the Democratic Party.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT WOMAN

On Thursday, I had the honor of paying tribute to the memory of a great American and one of the outstanding women of her generation--Frances Elizabeth Willard. I addressed the annual gathering of Woman's Christian Temperance Union leaders who assembled in the Capitol's Statutory Hall to observe Miss Willard's heavenly birthday. Miss Willard is the only woman represented in Statuary Hall.

Her devoted service to the world has, perhaps, best been summarized in this brief paragraph by Shelby M. Cullon:

"The world has been better because Frances E. Willard lived. She devoted her life unselfishly to the cause of humanity, and she brought sobriety into the homes of countless thousands; and at her death she left an organization that has been and will continue to be a potent factor for good in the world."

The End
To the People

Committees: Interstate & Foreign Commerce
Government Operations
Public Works

For Release February 29, 1956

ELECTORAL REFORM BILLS SCHEDULED FOR DEBATE

The next major legislative items scheduled for consideration by the Senate following action on the farm bill are several resolutions proposing reforms in our system for electing the President of the United States. Millions of Americans whose votes do not count in presidential elections because of the "winner take all" provisions under present law have been looking forward to action on these proposals for some time.

The present system of voting in the electoral college encourages bloc voting by giving greater weight to the votes of minority blocs in the large metropolitan areas than to the votes of the people in other sections of the country. Under this system, the 45 electoral votes of New York could go to one presidential candidate by a one-vote margin in popular votes. Thus, the votes of the millions of New Yorkers who supported the losing candidate would not be reflected in the electoral college voting.

Various resolutions proposing constitutional amendments for the purpose of effecting a reform in electoral college balloting have been introduced. Some would abolish the electoral college altogether and award the presidency to the candidate receiving the highest number of popular votes. The Daniel-Kefauver plan would do away with the electoral college but retain the electoral votes and distribute them on a basis proportionate to the popular votes received by each candidate. The Mundt-Coudert plan would elect presidential electors in the same manner in which the congressional delegation from each state is selected. This plan would retain the electoral college, which serves as a buffer against federal interference in state election procedures. The Supreme Court has ruled that electors are State officers performing a federal function.

My plan, S. J. Resolution 116, is the only plan by which the electoral college can be retained and at the same time accurately reflect the will of the people. It would apportion the electoral vote of every State among the three leading candidates according to the popular vote received by the candidate's electors.

COURT SHOULD HEED WASHINGTON

Last week, on George Washington's birthday, the members of the Senate gathered to hear the reading of Washington's Farewell Address to Congress in accordance with an annual custom. As one who believes in adherence to strong constitutional government, I was once again impressed by the following passage from this monumental message:

"The Constitution which at any time exists till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people is sacredly obligatory upon all. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this in one instance may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

Coming from the Father of our Country, this is sound advice which our Supreme Court could well have given considerable thought before it usurped the rights of the Congress, the States, and even the people in handing down its illegal anti-segregation decision.

THE END
NEWS STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN COLUMBIA, S. C., MARCH 3, 1956, ANNOUNCING HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

The untimely death of Senator Burnet R. Maybank came on September 1, 1954, just over two months before the General Election on November 2 of that year. Senator Maybank had been re-nominated in the Democratic primary without opposition.

If a special Democratic primary had been held to nominate a successor to Senator Maybank, the voters in that primary would have been bound by South Carolina law and by oath under State Democratic Party rules to support the nominee. A special primary was not held. Therefore, the Democrats of South Carolina were free to vote for the person of their choice for the full six-year term in the 1954 General Election.

Democrats in every county called on me to lead a write-in campaign as their candidate for the Senate. The view of many political observers was that such a campaign would be hopeless because of the difficulties of write-in balloting.

I believed the people themselves had a right to vote for a candidate of their choice to fill an office, especially since the term of office was for six years. I agreed to become a Democratic write-in candidate for the Senate seat left vacant for the term beginning in January 1955.

In the 1954 campaign I stated:

"This is a fight for principle... To make the principle at stake crystal clear, I pledge to the people of South Carolina that if I am elected in the General Election on November 2, I will tender my resignation in 1956 in sufficient time to let the Democrats of South Carolina nominate a United States Senator in the regular Democratic primary election that year, which is the earliest regular primary to be held."

On March 21 the State Democratic Convention will be held. One of its functions is to provide for a primary to nominate Democrats for the various offices which will be filled by the voters in November in the General Election. Candidates who enter the primary must qualify between noon on March 22 and noon on April 5.

The time has come for me to fulfill my promise to the people of South Carolina.

I have tried to choose a course that will be as crystal clear as the principle I upheld in the 1954 campaign.

Today I have delivered my letter of resignation to Governor Timmerman.
The text of the letter states:

"In keeping with the pledge which I made to the people of South Carolina during the 1954 campaign, and in order that the State Democratic Convention can place the office in this summer's primary, I hereby resign as United States Senator effective on and as of April 4, 1956, and I respectfully request that you accept this resignation effective on that date."

The State Convention can provide for a primary to nominate a candidate for the remaining four years of the six year term to which I was elected. The Democrats of South Carolina can have the opportunity of nominating the person of their choice on June 12. Any person who desires to enter the primary as a candidate has sufficient notice.

I shall be a candidate for nomination in the primary to succeed myself in the Senate.

My resignation was made effective April 4, the day before the closing of the books for qualification and before the campaign opens. Because of the unprecedented circumstances of the 1954 Senatorial election, I would not want to have any advantage which might result from my holding office during this primary campaign.

My resignation will guarantee a free and open primary election for South Carolina Democrats. I believe the course I have taken in resigning, and in making this announcement a month before the effective date, fulfills to the utmost the pledge I made to the people in 1954.

The trust reposed in me by the people has been deeply appreciated, and I have tried at all times to reward this trust by exerting my best efforts on behalf of the State and the Nation.

The End
SOUTHERNERS ACT IN UNITY

On Monday, 19 Senators and 77 Representatives presented to the Senate a Declaration of Constitutional Principles with regard to the Supreme Court segregation decision. The action of this group of Southern Congressmen is most significant. This declaration is the South's first major demonstration of solidarity against judicial legislation and other federal encroachments on States Rights.

In suggesting that a meeting of like-minded Senators be held, it was my thought that we should formulate a statement of unity to present our views and the views of our constituents on this subject. My hope also was that the statement issued should be of such nature as to gain the support of all people who love the Constitution; that they would see in this instance the danger of other future encroachments by the Federal Government into fields reserved to the States and the people.

Following the presentation of this declaration to the Senate, I made a speech on the floor of the Senate expressing my personal views on the Supreme Court, its segregation decision, and Constitutional Government.

Here are the principles contained in the latter part of the declaration:

With the gravest concern for the explosive and dangerous condition created by this decision and inflamed by outside meddlers;

We reaffirm our reliance on the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land.

We decry the Supreme Court's encroachments on rights reserved to the States and to the people, contrary to established law and to the Constitution.

We commend the motives of those States which have declared the intention to resist forced integration by any lawful means.

We appeal to the States and people who are not directly affected by these decisions to consider the constitutional principles involved against the time when they too, on issues vital to them, may be the victims of judicial encroachment.

Even though we constitute a minority in the present Congress, we have full faith that a majority of the American people believe in the dual system of government which has enabled us to achieve our greatness and will in time demand that the reserved rights of the States and of the people be made secure against judicial usurpation.

- 1 -
We pledge ourselves to use all lawful means to bring about a reversal of this decision which is contrary to the Constitution and to prevent the use of force in its implementation.

In this trying period, as we all seek to right this wrong, we appeal to our people not to be provoked by the agitators and troublemakers invading our States, and to scrupulously refrain from disorder and lawless acts.

90 PER CENT OF PARITY DEFEATED

By a surprising vote of 54 to 41, the Senate has voted against restoring 90 per cent of parity on the basic farm crops. The 90 per cent of parity provision was knocked out of the Senate farm bill by an amendment offered by Senator Anderson (D-N.M.). It received the support of Senators from both major political parties.

As a strong advocate of a 90 per cent guarantee for our farmers, I was very disappointed that the Anderson amendment providing for a continuation of flexible supports was successful. Most observers had predicted a close vote with a small vote margin either way.

The action of the Senate, however, is not final. Once action is completed on the Senate bill, it will go either to a free conference committee of Senate and House members or it will go to the House for concurrence. Last year the House voted in favor of 90 per cent of parity, thus there is a possibility the House action may prevail. I certainly hope it will.

The night before the voting began, I made a speech on the Senate floor in which I vigorously advocated passage of 90 per cent of parity and most of the main provisions of the bill.

- end -
The Senate farm bill, which I once considered to be a good program for alleviating many of our farm problems, has been weakened by the adoption of several crippling amendments and the rejection of several more designed to give relief to our farmers. The first blow to the bill came when 90 per cent of parity was defeated by an amendment which would continue the flexible support program.

The George amendment restoring 7/8 inch middling cotton as the basis for cotton price support loans was likewise defeated by a close vote. Our cotton producers then suffered another loss last week when the Russell amendment establishing a two price system for cotton was rejected.

This program would have operated similar to the two price wheat program which was adopted earlier in the week. It would have given each cotton grower a guarantee of 100 per cent of parity to the extent of cotton grown for home use through domestic marketing quotas. In addition, producers would have been allowed to grow unlimited quantities of cotton beyond their domestic quotas for sale on the world market at competitive prices. At the same time, protection would have been given our domestic textile mills against the influx of cheap-manufactured cotton products from foreign countries.

MINIMUM COTTON ALLOTMENT DEFEATED

By another close vote, 46 to 43, the Senate knocked out of the bill a provision which would have guaranteed our small cotton farmers a four-acre minimum allotment or 100 per cent of their average acreage for the preceding three years. In order to get the acreage necessary to accomplish this goal, 174,000 acres of cotton would have been reallocated among the Cotton States. For instance, South Carolina would have given up 7,262 acres and received in return 13,900 acres to be used for this acreage protection program.

GOOD POINTS APPROVED

I was gratified, however, that we were able to win approval of the following amendments for the benefit of our small farmers and farm families:

1. No further cotton acreage cuts in 1957 and 1958.

2. A 100,000-dollar limit on price support payments for any one farmer.

3. A 25,000-dollar limit on the amount of soil bank payments for any one farmer.

An attempt to remove the dual parity provision from the bill was turned back by a one-vote margin. Senator Laird (D-W.Va.) was
sworn in one hour before the vote, and he cast his vote with those of us who favor giving the farmers the choice of using either the old or modernized parity formulas.

COMPROMISE ELECTORAL AMENDMENT OFFERED

On Thursday, Senator Daniel of Texas, Senator Mundt of South Dakota, and I joined together in introducing legislation providing for a reform in our system of electing the President of the United States. This legislation is in the form of a compromise amendment to Senator Daniel’s electoral college reform bill now pending on the Senate calendar. The compromise is based on the election plans offered by Senator Daniel, Senator Mundt and myself. All these plans were designed to accurately reflect in the electoral voting the popular vote received by each presidential candidate.

The present system of voting in the electoral college encourages bloc voting by giving greater weight to the votes of minority elements in the huge metropolitan areas, such as New York. Under the present system, the 45 electoral votes of New York could go to one candidate by a one-vote margin in popular votes. This means millions of votes actually amount to nothing, thus discouraging many voters from even going to the polls.

51 Senators have joined us as co-sponsors. I predict we will be able to gain the necessary two-thirds majority vote to win passage in the Senate.

- end -
The farm bill, which has held the attention of the Congress for the past month, is now in the hands of a group of conferees who are trying to iron out the differences between the Senate bill approved last week and the House bill approved last year. It is not expected that the free conference members will finish this task before the Easter recess which begins March 29, and ends April 8. This means the bill probably will not go to President Eisenhower for final action before the middle of April.

In my last report, I pointed out that the bill originally approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee had been weakened considerably by amendments approved on the Senate floor. Shortly before the bill was approved by the Senate, however, two strengthening amendments were added. I co-sponsored one of these with Senator Stennis of Mississippi.

This provision would guarantee a minimum four-acre cotton allotment for our small cotton farmers, aiding approximately 38,000 farms in South Carolina. This would be done by increasing the national cotton allotment for 1957 and 1958 by 100,000 acres, of which 8,345 would go to South Carolina.

The other strengthening amendment would provide higher price supports for cotton, corn, and wheat by setting aside large quantities of these surpluses for the purpose of calculating Government price supports. This means that, even with flexible supports on the law-books, cotton could bring 90 per cent of parity in 1957 instead of the 87 per cent level promised by Secretary Benson.

Earlier, Senator Stennis and I co-sponsored another amendment on cotton acreage which won Senate approval. It would prevent any further acreage cuts in 1957 and 1958, saving 63,559 acres for South Carolina in 1957.

In another last minute vote, however, the Senate took a step backward in voting to require participation in the soil bank program before a farmer can receive price supports. I favor a voluntary program.

ELECTORAL REFORM PLAN DEBATED

The Senate has now shifted its attention to the electoral college reform plan which I co-sponsored with Senator Daniel (D-Tex.) and Senator Mundt (R-S.D.) as a substitute for separate bills each of us had introduced earlier. Voting was scheduled to begin Tuesday on this important legislation.

The consolidated plan has been attacked by a few Senators from the large Northern states who wish to perpetuate control of our national elections by minority voting blocs in the huge metropolitan areas. They are content with the present undemocratic system of electing our President and Vice President, in which millions of votes count for nothing. They realize, too, that both national parties select their candidates, write their platforms, and conduct their
campaigns to suit the whims and fancies of these minority elements who can swing a state’s entire electoral vote by a one-vote majority in popular votes.

PLAN HAS 7 ADVANTAGES

They either ignore or fail to recognize the seven principal reasons why our plan will make a great contribution to the American system of Government. The consolidated plan would:

1. Reflect the will of the people in national elections.
2. Encourage greater voter participation.
3. Require a majority vote to be President.
4. Bind electors legally to support the candidate to whom they are pledged.
5. Discourage bloc voting and machine control.
6. Let the individual States decide whether to discard or retain the electoral college buffer against Federal intervention in election matters.
7. Discourage election frauds.
8. Discourage splinter parties by apportioning electoral votes only among the three highest candidates.

S. C. DEMOCRATS ACT

On Wednesday, delegates to the South Carolina Democratic Convention decided to take a "wait and see" course of action regarding the presidential race. The delegates voted overwhelmingly to recess the State Convention so we could first determine what the party platform will contain and who the candidates will be. Our convention called on other Southern Democratic conventions to do likewise.

It is my hope that the National Convention can be persuaded to nominate a moderate candidate and to write a platform that is not antagonistic to the views of the South.
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ROUND-UP OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES

This is my final report on my activities in Washington, as my resignation from the United States Senate takes effect April 4.

NATIONAL SECURITY

During my brief period of service in the Senate, our people have been concerned with many matters of major importance, chief among these being the threat of Communist aggression. In the Senate, I have voted to support a strong, firm policy in dealing with the Communists. In addition, I have advocated and supported the maintenance of a strong military establishment with a large, combat-ready reserve in order to keep our country in a high state of preparedness.

FARM PROBLEMS

At home, our people have been faced with problems which pose grave threats to their economic welfare. While most of the other segments of our economy have been enjoying a mild economic boom, prosperity has been by-passing our farm population. Our farmers find themselves caught in a tight economic bind between rising production costs and lower prices for their products. This is pushing thousands of our small farmers and their families off the farms.

In the Senate, I have voted for various provisions of the Senate farm bill which I believe will solve many of our farm problems and help to preserve the farm family, one of the finest family units in the world. The Senate bill is now in a free conference committee, which, I am glad to report, has voted to restore 90 per cent of parity for the 1957 crop year. My hope now is that this bill will be rapidly approved and signed into law so our farmers can begin receiving its benefits as soon as possible.

TEXTILE THREAT

Our textile workers have also faced a grave threat to their economic welfare. This danger is the influx of cheap foreign-manufactured textiles onto our domestic markets. While in the Senate, I have devoted a great deal of my time and efforts toward stemming this threat to our State's largest industry. Last year I succeeded in getting the free trade bill amended to prevent letting down further the bars to foreign imports. I have also requested that import quotas be applied by the Administration, and have introduced legislation for the purpose of effecting quotas.

These efforts have resulted in causing the Japanese to place quotas on their exports to the United States, in an effort to avert quotas by the Administration or the Congress. Self-imposed quotas, however, have not satisfied me. I have continued to press for adequate protection for our textile industry and its more than a million employees.

SEGREGATION FIGHT

Perhaps the problem that has caused our people the most concern has been the Supreme Court's anti-segregation decision. I have moved to aid our cause in this fight in many directions. The most effective action has been the publication of what has come to be called the "Southern Manifesto." This great document has brought about the South's first demonstration of unity in our determined fight to win a reversal of this decision, which is contrary to the Constitution of the United States. It has also caused many press media and leaders from other sections of the country to modify their extreme stands against segregation.
ELECTORAL REFORM

I have also devoted considerable time toward effecting a reform in our system of electing our President and Vice President. The present undemocratic system fosters bloc voting and machine control in the large Northern cities. This has led both major political parties to pick their candidates, write their platforms, and conduct their campaigns in an effort to satisfy the whims and fancies of these minority elements.

During the past week the Senate voted 48-37 to accept the Daniel-Mundt-Thurmond compromise electoral reform amendment as a substitute for the original Daniel plan. Recognizing, however, that we could not obtain the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment, we moved to have the plan recommitted to committee for further study.

FORT JACKSON

Since coming to Washington, I have held many conferences with top Defense Department officials in an effort to have Fort Jackson designated as a permanent installation. Recently, the Army agreed to make this great installation a permanent training center.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to serve you since my write-in election in 1954. The trust reposed in me by the people has been deeply appreciated. I have tried at all times to reward this trust by exerting my best efforts on behalf of South Carolina and the Nation.

The End