My fellow South Carolinians:

President Eisenhower this week submitted to the Congress a balanced budget for the fiscal year 1957 which will total approximately $66 billion. In addition to the balanced budget for 1957, the President has also stated 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. I shall also welcome a reduction in our 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.

There is another matter which is receiving attention in Washington during the first weeks of the new session. During the past few years, congressional debates over so-called civil rights proposals have been kept to a minimum. This year, however, the integrationists are threatening to introduce new civil rights legislation and riders which would effect integration in various ways.

A Negro Democratic Congressman from New York has vowed to attach a civil rights rider onto the federal aid to education bill. President Eisenhower has called for establishment of a bipartisan commission to interfere in matters reserved to the States. He has been joined in this appeal to the Congress by
Senator Hubert Humphrey, Minnesota Democrat. Senator Humphrey already has such a resolution pending, along with several other so-called civil rights proposals. This commission would be similar to the Civil Rights Commission appointed by President Truman during his administration and which recommended lowering racial barriers—thus encroaching on the rights of the States.

I can tell you today with all confidence that such a resolution shall never be passed as long as I am able to stand and fight on the floor of the Senate.

We Southern Democrats who believe in preserving strong constitutional government and the rights of the States must stand together in the face of such proposals. I am trying to get my Southern colleagues in the Senate to organize so we may present a solid front against the Supreme Court's segregation decision and the civil rights proposals.

I have been gratified by the favorable reaction to my plan for dividing the electoral vote in presidential elections to best reflect the will of the people. My plan would apportion the electoral vote of a State among the 3 leading candidates in proportion to the popular vote received by each candidate's electors.

There are several important features to my plan. First, it would retain the present electoral college system without changing its mechanics. It is important that we retain the electoral college because it serves as a buffer between the States and Federal Government. 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.
Here is another feature of my plan. It would prevent one candidate from receiving all the electoral votes of a State/when he received only a narrow margin in popular votes. This would help overcome the effects of bloc voting/and control of elections by minority groups.

I hope you will be able to tune in again for my next report over this station. Thank you.

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