My fellow South Carolinians:

A historic event took place in Congress on Monday. At that time, 19 Senators and 77 Representatives presented to both Houses of Congress 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 is the South's first major demonstration of solidarity against judicial legislation and other federal encroachments on States Rights.

Since it was presented in the Congress, other Southern Congressmen have added their endorsements, running the total number of signatures over the 100 mark.

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 the declaration, I made a speech on the Senate floor in which I told my colleagues that we are free, morally and legally, to fight this decision, and that we will fight it to the end. I told them it would be the submission of cowardice if we fail to use every lawful means to protect the rights of the people.
I believe this declaration has already proved itself to be a great help to the South's cause.

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 aid 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 7/8ths inch middling cotton as the basis for cotton price support loans has likewise been defeated. Our cotton producers then suffered another loss this 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.

I was gratified, however, that we were able to win approval for our farm families of the following amendments.

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

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

3. A 25,000-dollar limit on the amount of soil bank payments received by any one farmer.
Another 60 million for the distribution of milk through our school lunch program.

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.

Many 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.

That's all my time for this week. I hope you will tune in again for my next report to the people. Thank you.

The end.

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