

My fellow South Carolinians:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Just this week the Senate voted 48-37 to accept the Daniel-Mundt-Thurmond compromise electoral reform amendment as a substitute for the original Daniel plan. Because two-thirds majority is required for passage of a constitutional amendment, we moved to have the plan recommitted to committee for further study.

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. Last week 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.

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