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Statement regarding resignation from the Senate

Strom Thurmond

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Mr. President:

I would like, at this time, to have inserted in the body of the Record an announcement I made in Columbia, South Carolina, the capital of my State, on March 3, 1956.

The text of this announcement explains a promise I made to the people of South Carolina in the fall of 1954 when I entered the campaign for election to the Senate. It also explains why I have submitted my resignation to the Governor of South Carolina and will give up my Senate seat on April 4, in spite of the fact that more than four years remain of the six-year term to which I was elected.

In the Democratic primary in South Carolina on June 12, I will be a candidate for the nomination of my party to enter the November General Election to seek the approval of the voters of my State to succeed myself in the Senate for the balance of my term.

Although the press has published my reasons for taking this action, I believe it appropriate that I should present this explanation to my distinguished colleagues. Many courtesies and kindnesses have been extended to me by the members of this great deliberative body. I deeply appreciate the friendship of the members of the Senate and I hope to renew my membership in this body if it is the will of the people of South Carolina that I shall do so.