

11/7/58 (74-55)  
Senator Strom Thurmond included in his remarks to the Citizens Committee For Constitutional Government (Savannah River Division) held in Augusta the following:

"To date, Southern resistance has been disorganized and token at best. The general idea has been to circumvent the nonlawful decisions of the Supreme Court and to make new laws which permit a State to control its own affairs as reserved to it under the Constitution. This has not been enough. The court has flung the challenge directly in the South's face. The Court by offering us in effect the alternative of integrated education or no education has demanded our surrender. What is to be the answer of the Southern people?

"Let this be our answer. We do not surrender. We are not about to surrender, now or in the future. We shall not surrender. Instead, we hereby declare total and unremitting war on the Supreme Court's unconstitutional usurpations and unlawful arrogations of power.

"We shall launch the most massive campaign of all-out non-violent resistance ever witnessed on this continent -- resistance which we pledge to keep up until the constitutional freedoms for which our ancestors struggled and died <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ secure.

"As a first step, let us make it grimly clear to the Court that we reject both of its unacceptable alternatives; that we will maintain an adequate system of mass education for all our people -- either a public system or a private system, and that we will maintain it segregated.

"It will be pointed out that this course which I advocate will inevitably come into direct conflict with orders of the Federal Courts. I am fully aware of that fact. So be it.

"For four years now, we have been declaring our beliefs and principles in regard to the integration decision. It is now time for us to stand on those principles and beliefs.

"The key to this entire situation lies in the will, the spirit, and the

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determination of the Southern people. If we stand determined and united, there is no power upon earth that can force us to mix the races in our schools. The Federal Government does not have enough troops to police the entire South, and even if it did, race-mixing still could not be forced upon a determined, organized and united people.

"The first thing we must do, all over the South, is to organize for resistance at the local level -- in every community.

"Second, we must make sure that we elect to school boards and other local positions only the very strongest and most reliable men -- men who will not yield, men who will, if necessary, go to jail.

"We must exercise the utmost vigilance in selecting our public officials on the Statewide level. Only candidates who will stand absolutely firm should be supported.

"We must launch and maintain an unceasing and effective program of non-cooperation and non-violent resistance to forced integration.

"But make no mistake about it, my fellow citizens of the South: The path will not be easy. We are entering indeed upon times that will try men's souls. Many of us will have to suffer -- all of us will have to sacrifice. That is always the lot of those who choose freedom.

"There is no easy way out. To gain ultimate victory, we must stand firm.

"To wage this vast struggle, and achieve the objectives for which we strive, will require all the effort and all the courage of a brave people. The Southerners of the past were always known as a brave people. I feel sure that the Southerners of today will also prefer to be remembered as a brave people --- A brave people, who chose freedom."