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RADIO INTERVIEW FOR "FAITH OF FAMOUS PERSONS"
RECORDED FEBRUARY 13, 1958

THE REV. R. JAY HANCOCK: Our guest today for the "Faith of Famous Persons" portion of our program is a distinguished South Carolina citizen, formerly governor of that State, and now representing his State in the United States Senate. Senator Strom Thurmond, it is an honor and a pleasure to have you with us.

SENATOR STROM THURMOND: It is a privilege to be here, Mr. Hancock, to talk with you, for a moment or two, on a subject that is very dear to me. I am thoroughly convinced that Faith is an essential quality, and especially so for a man who bears the responsibilities of leadership. I am frank to say that I could not shoulder the load without the help and guidance of Almighty God.

MR. HANCOCK: Senator Thurmond, Faith is a word that means many things to many men. I wonder whether you could tell us, in a few words, what Faith means to you.

SENATOR THURMOND: Whenever I want to express something in a few words, I can ~~usually~~ rely on the Bible. In the New Testament, in the Book of Hebrews, we find an excellent definition of Faith -- "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." There's a world of meaning in that short sentence, Mr. Hancock. I imagine you've expanded it into full-length sermons yourself.

MR. HANCOCK: I have indeed, Senator.

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SENATOR THURMOND: And I would imagine, too, that a sermon on Faith is one of the hardest kind to put into words. We see Faith operating around us in so many different ways, every day. It is such a marvelous thing, and yet so common, that I am amazed whenever I hear someone say that he does not believe in the power of Faith.

MR. HANCOCK: Can you recall an example of some great work wrought by faith?

SENATOR THURMOND: Of course we have to be very careful in our use of the word "great." What may seem a great miracle in the sight of man may be less important to God than something that we consider commonplace. I think you will see what I mean if you will permit me to quote, briefly, something that was written in the last century by George W. Curtis.

MR. HANCOCK: By all means.

SENATOR THURMOND: This is what he wrote: "I think that to have known one good old man -- one man who, through the chances and rubs of a long life, has carried his heart in his hand, like a palm branch, waving all discords into peace, helps our Faith in God, in ourselves, and in each other, more than many sermons."

MR. HANCOCK: In other words, a good life is a monument to the power of Faith.

SENATOR THURMOND: Exactly so.

MR. HANCOCK: Thank you, Senator Thurmond, for coming with us on our program today.

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