

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SCHOOL CRISIS AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 3, 1958.

On Monday, September 29, 1958, the Supreme Court of the United States / handed down an opinion of momentous consequence / to the people of this country / and especially to the people of the South. On the second day following, the President of the United States / solemnly warned all the citizens and officials of the southern States / that they must abide / by the Supreme Court's school integration decisions.

In the light of the gravity / and transcendent importance / of these developments, I deem it my duty / as a citizen, as a lawyer and as a public official / to rise in defense of the southern people, whom both the Court and the President / would subjugate.

This opinion of the Court / is not the law. It is another attempt by the Court / to substitute its false and vicious ideology / for the Constitution / in many fields, of which the school problem / is only one.

The Court's utterances in violation of the Constitution / and in defiance of the expressed will of the people / are beyond the scope of its power. I urge the people of the country / who believe in constitutional government / to stand firm in their opposition to the tyranny of the Court, regardless of the degree of force employed by the Federal Government.

The people of Arkansas and Virginia / are undergoing the brunt of a brutal persecution / directed at the South. They must be given the vigorous support / of all the southern people / and all others / who support a government of laws.

The Supreme Court has flung the challenge/in the face of the South.
Our answer must be/that we will not permit the Supreme Court/or any power upon
earth/to make pawns or hostages of the school children of the South; that we,
the people of the South, shall maintain an adequate system of mass education
for all our children/and we shall operate such system, in accordance with our
constitutional authority, as we see fit.

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