

HOLD FOR RELEASE AT 2 P. M., SUNDAY, JUNE 28

NEWS RELEASE ON ADDRESS BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) AT DEDICATION OF CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA, 2 P. M., JUNE 28, 1959.

FRONT ROYAL, Va., June 28 -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today urged all Southerners to remain "firm and unyielding to the encroachment on their rights by the Supreme School Board in Washington," in addressing the citizens of Front Royal, Va., at the dedication of the Confederate Museum used as a private school in 1958-59 to maintain segregated schools.

"So long as we remain united in our consecration to principle, firm in our determination to resist the attack on our liberty, and courageous in implementing our chosen courses of resistance, we need have no fear of defeat," the South Carolina States Rights leader said.

Senator Thurmond commended the citizens of Front Royal for their "courageous and solid unity of action" in boycotting integrated schools. He said, "Your example removed any doubt as to whether Virginians still retained the spirit and love of principle demonstrated so inspiringly in the 1860's."

"Truly, my fellow citizens, by your calm determination, your courage, and your sacrifice, you have made Front Royal the very symbol of the South's determination to preserve and maintain States Rights," Senator Thurmond said.

Denouncing Federal usurpation of power by all three branches of the government, the South Carolinian stated unequivocally that "the desegregation decisions of the Supreme Court are not 'the law of the land.' Far from it, the decisions are built on a foundation of fraud, deceit and aggression." Senator Thurmond denied that the War Between The States was a "lost cause," saying, "A fight for principle is never lost. The cause which they (the South) upheld is still a living cause, albeit in modified form. Local self-government in the sense of complete national independence may be no longer an issue; but local self-government in the sense of States Rights definitely is an issue."

The South Carolina Senator referred to the struggle in opposition to Court decisions as "not a struggle merely for the separation of the races in the schools...Essentially, our struggle is for the triumph of a government of laws opposed to a government of men...The South's cause is the nation's cause."

Reminding his audience of the bitter Reconstruction period, Senator Thurmond said, "Today the South has risen again. Our perseverance for the cause of liberty, our very spirit of independence, is reaping the rewards of economic progress. I suspect sometimes that the degree of passion exhibited towards the South on the race issue may, in itself, be a reliable barometer of the South's economic progress."

Senator Thurmond concluded his remarks, saying: "I am confident that the reaction of the overwhelming majority of Southerners will be that tyranny shall not prevail in this land. Liberty, freedom and constitutional government must, and shall, be victorious."

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