1959

Press release on Senator Thurmond's talk about situations in Little Rock and Virginia with regard to resisting integration, circa 1959

Strom Thurmond

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In Senator Thurmond's talk, he briefly reviewed the situations in Little Rock and Virginia with regard to resisting integration.

He denied that Southerners had any malice in their hearts for Negroes and took the occasion to commend the great majority of Southern Negroes for their refusal to be agitated by the NAACP. He asked the question, "Can the North honestly say that the South has a Negro problem half as great as the one in the North?"

Touching on Constitutional government, Senator Thurmond reviewed the Founding Fathers' fear of centralization and compared the present Supreme Court's judicial tyranny with that of the legislative tyranny to which the South was subjected during the Reconstruction period.

He pointed out that the voters of the South have clearly shown their preference for separate but equal schools, but the voice of the people has been ignored. Home rule would be disregarded for regimentation.

Extending little hope for remedy in Washington, the junior Senator from South Carolina said with regret that the big union bosses and prominent members of both parties have gone on record recently to the effect that integration will be rammed down the South's throat and that the unlimited debate rule of the Senate will be killed. Senator Thurmond promised an all-out fight to prevent this.

"The real battle must be fought at home," he emphasized, bringing out the need for electing only strong-willed men to office and for continued opposition to further federal seizure of power.