

Office of Senator Strom Thurmond
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

81-7
FOR RELEASE:
1:00 P.M.
January 31, 1959

GREENVILLE, S. C., January 31, 1959 -- Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) issued a stern warning here today that the American people must immediately demand a return to constitutional government in order to triumph over the enemies of America.

In an address before the 36th Annual Convention of the South Carolina Association of Launderers and Cleaners, the South Carolina Democrat backed up his admonition with these words:

"The gravest danger to our country is from within, and our enemies' most powerful weapon is the complacency of the American people as a whole. The Masters of the Kremlin realize full well that an all-out nuclear war would only result in their own destruction as well as ours. In order to keep this realization before them, however, we must maintain a strong national defense posture, and we must continue to make great strides in missile, rocket, and other vital research programs."

The Senator attributed to all three branches of the Federal government the responsibility for the threat from within, stating:

"We are now confronted with a two-pronged attack on our constitutional form of government: First, the usurpation by each of the three branches of the Federal government of the rights belonging to the others; and second, the usurpation by all three branches of the Federal government of the rights reserved to the States. Both attacks have been spurred on by various groups interested solely in political aggrandizement and by forces which would substitute collectivism for free enterprise."

He said that it is still time for the people to act, especially with regard to the 86th Congress. After criticizing the record of the 85th Congress as being "miserable," he warned that the record of the 86th Congress will be worse, "unless united, firm and resolute action is taken."

Senator Thurmond listed as the probable major battles of the 86th Congress the following issues: Fiscal responsibility, so-called civil rights legislation, labor union reform, foreign aid, public housing, and urban renewal. In commenting on the issue of fiscal responsibility, he criticized the President's budget recommendations as being "unrealistic" in depending on anticipated rather than assured income. He called for reductions and elimination of many non-defense spending items.

Speaking further on this subject, the Senator said:

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"Even desirable programs should be postponed in order to check the hidden tax of inflation, which destroys the livelihood of our retired workers and other fixed income groups, and mortgages our posterity before its birth."

At the beginning of his address, the Senator praised the people of South Carolina as being believers in Americanism, the Constitution as written, the free enterprise system, and as people who want the opportunity to work. "These are the principal ingredients," he said, "which have turned our Southland, from what the late President Franklin Roosevelt once described as the 'Nation's No. 1 Economic Problem,' into the land of opportunity and the last fortress of individual freedom and initiative."

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