

(This is a news release on a speech which Senator Russell and other Southern Senators have described as one of the best given in the Senate on the South's position on segregation. It contains new and different material not used before.)

WASHINGTON, April 1--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) has warned his U. S. Senate colleagues that the South will continue to maintain its own style of racial segregation despite Northern efforts to remold the Southern mind to conform to the "harsh and hypocritical" Northern style of segregation.

The South Carolina Democrat made this strong assertion in a fighting speech in which he contrasted the differences in what he termed the "Northern and Southern systems of segregation." He said the North will fail "miserably" in its century-old attempt to make the South conform to Northern ways because of the firm determination of the Southern people to maintain their "right to be different."

Here is how he contrasted the two styles of segregation:

"While there may exist some occasional exceptions here and there and around the edges and fringes of white society, as a general and final proposition the people of this country are going to maintain segregation--if not de jure, then de facto. This is beyond discussion, Mr. President--the only point of concern is: What type of segregation? Just as there are in this country two main, and quite distinct, cultures, a Northern (or, more properly, a Greater New England) culture and a Southern culture, so there are in this country, Mr. President, broadly speaking, two different species of the genus segregation. There is the Northern type, and there is the Southern type.

"In the South, the separation of the races--this is the more accurate term, though for the sake of habit and convenience we shall continue to say 'segregation'--is a matter of public policy, regulated by law as well as by custom. Segregation in the South is honest, open and above-board. It is a less severe form of segregation than that which prevails in the North. While in the North there is almost always an actual physical, geographical separation of Negro residential areas from white, this is not so in the South--it is not necessary.

"In contrast to the honest, above-board, and definite Southern system, the Northern type of segregation is founded on hypocrisy and deceit, and fundamentally on geographical separation which is either total or as near-total as the Northern ingenuity can make it in the face of mounting Negro immigration. The prevailing pattern in the North is segregation by flight. The Negro is told that he is equal, that he has all his rights, and that he will not be discriminated against; then he is simply avoided. The whites flee to the suburbs, and, through the housing pattern, de facto segregation is maintained, except in a few unfortunate fringe areas which degenerate into centers of tension and crime and whose whites leave just as soon as they can accumulate sufficient funds to do so.

"By and large, the Northern system is eminently successful. It may be ruthless, it may be hypocritical and deceitful; but it works. It is tough on the Negroes crowded into the crime-filled ghettos, it is tough on the comparatively few whites who are left in the fringe areas adjacent to these ghettos. But never mind this: By and large, the system is a complete success. It works: The overwhelming majority of Northern whites is enabled by this system to avoid almost all contact with the Negro.

"Mr. President, of the two systems, or styles, of segregation, the Northern and the Southern, there is no doubt whatever in my mind which is the better. Our Southern system too has stood and passed the pragmatic test: It works. And this time-tested Southern system of ours has the advantage, so conspicuously absent from the Northern system, of being both humane and honest, rather than hypocritical and deceitful."