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News release on address by Senator Strom Thurmond in Greenwood, S.C. in campaign for renomination to United States Senate, 3:00 p.m., 1960 May 7

Strom Thurmond

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GREENWOOD, S.C., May 7--Senator Strom Thurmond warned here today of the importance of keeping the United States strong "militarily and economically" in coping with what he termed as the twin dangers to national security--"armed attack from without and economic collapse from within."

The Senator also urged that President Eisenhower reconsider his plans to go to the summit conference in view of Mr. Khrushchev's recent provocative speech, the Soviet downing of the American airplane, and failure of Communist leaders to live up to their previous agreements made at conference tables. He said the Communists have broken 50 of 52 post-World War II agreements with the West in accordance with Lenin's teaching that "promises are like pie-crusts--made to be broken."

Thurmond made these remarks in reporting to the people on his Senate record in his second re-election campaign speech. On Friday night at Columbia, he stressed his record on defending States' Rights and Constitutional Government against the agitation for "civil rights" legislation and other anti-South proposals.

Big government spending for extravagant, socialistic, and non-essential programs was tabbed by Thurmond, the leading Senate Democrat on economy voting, as the principal cause of the threat of internal economic collapse. He reminded his audience of Mr. Khrushchev's boast that the Soviet Union would "bury" the United States economically. "We could make this goal very easy for Mr. Khrushchev," he stated, "by marching further down the road to bankruptcy and fiscal insolvency."
The Senator cited figures to show that the national debt now stands at more than $290 billion and that this added together with future commitments, C.O.D.'s, and obligations of the Federal Government leaves a "$750 billion-dollar mortgage hanging over the people of the United States." He pointed out that during the last two years the National Government spent $159 billion, more than was spent ($157 billion) in the first 150 years (1787-1937).

Non-defense spending came in for special criticism by the Senator. He pointed out that in fiscal year 1959 defense expenditures were down $4.3 billion from 1953 while non-defense expenditures were up $9.2 billion from 1953.

Inflation was also denounced by Thurmond in showing that the purchasing power of the dollar had declined by 33 per cent in the past 12 years. One of the primary causes of this, he explained was the government's policy of spending more than it has taken in during 15 of the past 20 years.

On the subject of national defense, Thurmond, who is an Army Reserve major general and a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, advocated a "strong and balanced defense force second to none in the world." He warned against total reliance on large rockets and missiles, which he said would play no part in limited wars, "where ground troops with modernized airlift, equipment and weapons would be the deciding factor." He also advocated full missile strength, particularly the Navy's underwater Polaris missile, and a round-the-clock air alert by the bombers of the Strategic Air Command "until such time as our long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles become flexible and fully operational."

The Senator reviewed his Senate record against integration of the races and in favor of States' Rights with these facts: (1) his authorship of the original of the Southern Manifesto which was signed by 101 Members of Congress and which put the South on the offensive against the desegregation decision; (2) his testimony and speeches against the 1957 "civil rights" bill, including his record-breaking speech of more than 24 hours against final passage; (3) his work in winning 34 co-sponsors for the States' Rights bill, which lost in the Senate by
one vote; (4) his discovery and elimination from a housing bill of a provision which would have permitted integration of housing by a method of "scatteration" of individually integrated public housing units in neighborhoods; (5) the successful efforts of the 18 Southern Senators to defeat the most vicious proposals in the 1960 "civil rights" bill by an organized filibuster and other parliamentary tactics; and (6) Congressional Quarterly's voting record analysis which showed him to be the "Most Southern of the Southern Senators."

The Senator also cited his efforts to report to the people at home and also behind the "paper curtain" on the South's case through use of the Congressional Record, nation-wide radio and TV appearances, speaking engagements at home and outside the South, and by writing articles for various periodicals.

Also discussed was the Senator's strong record on efforts to protect the domestic textile industry and the jobs of its employees against the flood of low-wage imports from foreign countries. Thurmond, who is a member of the Senate's Special Textile Subcommittee, played a key role in the recent Senate investigation which made 10 recommendations for improving the welfare of the industry. He also cited his record in offering and winning adoption of legislative items to assist the industry and also his many speeches on the Senate floor urging both administrative and legislative action to halt the tide of imports.

From 1947 through 1958 he said 719 textile mills were closed, eliminating 325,000 jobs in the nation, 102,000 of them in the South. He pointed out further that cotton cloth imports have risen from 47 million square yards in 1950 to 199 million square yards in 1959.

Earlier in the week Senators Thurmond and Kerr introduced a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that no further reductions be made in the tariffs at the forthcoming international conference on General Agreements on Trade and Tariffs.

The Senator opened his speech by praising the people of Greenwood County for their "community spirit," for being "sound thinking people," for fostering
a "good climate for free enterprise," for the rapid industrial growth of the county, and for being willing to "give a day's work for a day's pay." The community spirit, he said, was demonstrated by the effort to hold Greenwood's airline route.