5-20-1960

News release, 8:00 p.m., 1960 May 20

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation

Thurmond, Strom, "News release, 8:00 p.m., 1960 May 20" (1960). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 2049.
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FLORENCE, S. C., May 20—Senator Strom Thurmond called here tonight for "strength, firmness, and unity" in meeting the "bluff and bluster" challenges being hurled at the United States by "Communist Dictator" Nikita Khrushchev. The Soviet Premier was blasted by the Senator for his "utter lack of good faith and his intemperate mouthings and insults at President Eisenhower and the American people."

These remarks were made by the Senator, who is a member of the important Armed Services Committee, at a campaign speaking at the Florence High School auditorium in seeking renomination to the U. S. Senate in the S. C. Democratic Primary election on June 14.

Senator Thurmond said he had warned against going to the summit conference in view of Mr. Khrushchev's war-like attitude over the U-2 plane incident. "The Soviets", he said, "have only one goal, and that is the communization of the world through economic warfare, a shooting war, or by use of bluff and bluster techniques." So long as we are strong economically, so long as we maintain a defense force second to none in the world, and so long as we stand up firmly to the Communists with a united backing at home and among our allies, we have nothing to fear from the Soviet warmongers. On the other hand, disunity and political bickering and signs of weak-kneed diplomacy, economic decline, and lack of military preparedness will be open invitations to attack and/or subversion and the loss of our priceless American liberties."

The late Secretary of State Dulles was praised by Senator Thurmond for his firm policy in "calling the bluff" of the Communists on several Communist-caused crises. He noted that some criticized Mr. Dulles for his firm policy, which he characterized as being "successful and courageous."
The Senator chided Mr. Khrushchev for "distorting the U-2 plane incident for propaganda purposes in view of the widespread espionage system of the Soviets, which he called the "greatest in the world." He called out the names of famous Communist spies caught in the United States, adding that 2,787 of the more than 17,000 Red agents in West Germany were caught last year.

It is necessary for the United States, he said, to gather intelligence data on Soviet aggressive intentions and capabilities because of the wall of secrecy which rings the Iron Curtain as against the rather free flow of information in the United States, even on supposedly classified information. "Much of our defense plans must of necessity be based on Soviet intentions and capabilities," he said, "and I favor our leaders using whatever means they consider necessary to obtain this information in the interest of our national security."

In commenting on the suspension of U-2 flights over Soviet territory, Thurmond pointed out that with the launching of the reconnaissance satellite sometime within the next four months the U-2 will become obsolete for this purpose.

Senator Thurmond also turned his fire on farm problems, agitation for "civil rights" legislation, the Justice Department's investigation of voting records in McCormick County, and efforts by the Textile Workers Union to restrict a local union in Front Royal, Virginia, from using its own funds to help finance a private school system to avoid integration.

He pointed out that farmers are receiving approximately one-half the income of other groups in the country. To help the farmers out of their "price-cost" squeeze he urged that efforts be made to halt the inflationary spiral, which he said is caused in part by government deficit spending, and that farm surpluses be eliminated or lowered by finding new export markets and new industrial uses of farm products. He also advocated assistance to help cut production costs.

The Senator cited his record of pushing research to help eradicate the boll weevil cotton pest and to improve the spinning quality of cotton. He said he is
now seeking $165,000 to be used at Florence to study the hibernation of the weevil on a year-round basis in a new greenhouse built especially for this work. A new soil and water conservation research laboratory costing $425,000 and to be built at Florence was also discussed by the Senator. He said he and Congressional delegation members are trying to obtain these funds as soon as possible.

His efforts toward obtaining more realistic support prices for South Carolina farmers who tie and grade their tobacco were discussed, along with the 1959 tobacco law which he and others co-sponsored for the purpose of freezing tobacco support prices and acreage controls at the 1958 level.

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 Pee Dee area of South Carolina was praised by Senator Thurmond as a "great agricultural area" which also has all of the essential qualities for free enterprise development. He was particularly complimentary of the "great agricultural research work" performed in the area by the Coker family.

THE END

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