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News release on Thurmond re-election campaign speech, Barnwell, S.C., 1960 June 6

Strom Thurmond

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BARNWELL, S.C., June 6--Senator Strom Thurmond wound up his re-election campaign speaking here tonight by turning most of his oratorical fire on "compulsive" federal spending and "compulsory" federal integration of the races.

The South Carolina Senator, who has been a leader in the U. S. Senate in the fights against extravagant spending and forcible integration of the races, credited political motivations as being the primary cause of this "leftward" march of the Federal Government in both of these fields.

On the subject of spending, Thurmond cited these delusions which he said have been used by politicians to get more money out of the Federal Treasury to put some money in everyone's hands: (1) "that we can spend ourselves into prosperity;" (2) "that a crash program is needed for everything;" (3) "that federal spending can solve all problems;" (4) "that we have an obligation to support the world;" and (5) "that federal spending costs no one anything and the supply of money is limitless."

"All of this," he said, "is bottomed on the prevalent political theory that votes can be bought with tax dollars. I have stood for economy in government spending against the organized pressure groups, ranking first among the Senate Democrats during the last session of Congress. If re-elected, I promise that I will continue to look after the best interest of the most under-rated and neglected group of people in this country--the American taxpayers."

Thurmond pointed with alarm to the "gigantic" increase in government spending and the national debt, which he said is leading our country down the road to national bankruptcy. "We are now," he
said, "in the era of $80 billion budgets, and our national debt is 
$290 billion. In the first 150 years of our country, we spent $157 billion, and in the past two years alone we have spent $159 billion."

In addition to this, the Senator stated that together with the national debt of $290 billion the United States is obligated for future commitments and c.o.d.'s which amount to $750 billion. He called it a "$750 billion mortgage on our posterity."

An advocate of a strong military force, Thurmond pointed out that not all of this money has been spent on defense. He cited fiscal figures of the past 10 years showing a jump of 143 per cent in "purely domestic, non-defense" spending, excluding interest payments on the national debt, which amount to 11 per cent of the total budget. He said the 143 per cent increase in spending cannot be entirely credited to a population increase of only 18 per cent, a cost of living increase of 20 per cent, or an increase in the gross national product of 40 per cent--all during the same 10-year period.

On the subject of integration, the former States' Rights presidential candidate said the issue is "politically inspired" by minority bloc voting in non-South metropolitan areas and is abetted by the indifference of non-South voters who are content with their own system of segregation of the much smaller proportion of Negroes in their areas.

The Senator reviewed his U. S. Senate record against integration of the races and in favor of States' Rights with these facts: (1) his authorship of the original draft 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."

In reviewing other aspects of his Senate record, the South Carolina Democrat pointed to his record of perfect attendance last year, his fight for labor reform legislation to protect the public and the working people, his number one standing among Senate Democrats on voting for economy in government spending, and his efforts to serve the people in every capacity and report fully to them on his actions in the Senate.