

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, AND STATES' RIGHTS DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH
REFERENCE TO MAYOR O'DWYER, MAYOR HUMPHREY, ET AL.
OCTOBER 4, 1948

I am not surprised that Mayor O'Dwyer is agitated over the refusal of Southern Democrats to swallow the so-called civil rights program.

Mayor O'Dwyer is absolutely correct when he says States' Rights Democrats are not supporting the Truman-Barkley ticket "because President Truman would not turn his back on civil rights."

And then, according to the Associated Press, Mayor O'Dwyer makes this assertion:

"I hope to live long enough to see them black-balled so they can never get back into a Democratic convention again."

It was these New York Democratic leaders and discredited Tammany Hall politicians who had Mr. Truman send his so-called civil rights message to Congress in order to appeal to the Negro vote in a special Bronx Congressional election.

Mayor O'Dwyer now sees that the big-city machine bosses have wrecked all chances of the Democratic Party winning the 1948 Presidential election. Because of our long years of loyalty to the Democratic Party the machine bosses thought we would accept their insults and let them pervert our Party without fighting back. They know differently now.

When Mayor O'Dwyer of New York, Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis, Mayor Hague of New Jersey, Mayor Kelley of Chicago, and the other big-city bosses forced the 1948 Democratic Convention to repudiate the traditional position of the Democratic Party on states' rights and wrote in the Democratic platform the so-called civil rights program, they forfeited the support and respect of the people of the South.

The South has nothing in common with these big-city machine politicians. We know that had it not been for Ed Flynn and his New York gang, James F. Byrnes would now be President instead of Harry Truman. When these same forces who blocked a distinguished Southerner in Chicago in 1944 for Vice President took charge of the

party in Philadelphia, the true Democrats of the South decided something had to be done. We know our rights and we are not going to be intimidated.

While Mayor O'Dwyer is talking about black-balling States' Rights Democrats, Senator Barkley is in Minnesota urging the people of that State to replace Senator Joe Ball with Mayor Humphrey, the very man who led the fight in the recent Democratic Convention against the Moody States' Rights resolution and wrote the so-called civil rights plank into the Democratic platform.

It should be remembered that Senator Ball refused to support Tom Dewey for President in 1944 and threw his support behind Franklen D. Roosevelt. The Trumanites are giving a lot of lip service to Roosevelt in this campaign but at the same time they are trying to replace a man who left Dewey to support Roosevelt in 1944 with a man who insulted every Southern delegate at the 1948 Democratic Convention. We shall not soon forget Mayor Humphrey's fight against the South in the 1948 Democratic Convention.

The South will no longer be duped by the O'Dwyers, the Humphreys, the Hagues, the Kelleys, and the Flynns. They may as well learn once and for all that they can no longer use the South as a whipping boy to garner minority block votes in the big cities.