I am extremely glad to have this opportunity to express my appreciation to the many loyal and faithful men and women in central South Carolina who have helped and encouraged me so much in my campaign for governor of South Carolina.

Tomorrow, the First Democratic primary will be held. I predict that by this time next Tuesday night the returns will show that Strom Thurmond is leading the field and I say here that when such is the case, the results will be a triumph for good government.

To my mind, the issues in this campaign are perfectly clear. The issues that are to be decided on next Tuesday are whether the voters of South Carolina want a thoroughly trained man, who has devoted most of his life to public service, as governor, and whether these voters want good, sound, progressive government restored to the people of South Carolina.

When this campaign opened nearly three months ago, I expressed myself openly and fearlessly on all the issues. Since that time I have spoken to thousands of voters throughout South Carolina. I have told them my views and I have received from them satisfying pledges of support because they, too, believe in good government and they, too, want to rid South Carolina of all selfish groups who have worked for special interests and against the welfare of the people.

I have not changed my views on the issues of this campaign.

The paramount idea that should be carried in the minds of everyone is the future progress and prosperity of our state. In these post-war years, we are going to face many problems that will affect our industries and our agricultural life. We must be ready to handle these problems with dispatch and with ability. To me, it is just good
hard common sense that a man fully experienced in government be your chief executive and lend his experience toward carrying out the program of bringing new industries into the state and in helping our farmers meet the employment and production crises caused by the mechanization of so many farms.

Now in my 23 years of public service as teacher, county superintendent of education, senator, judge and soldier, and in my years of farming and working in a cotton mill, I have gained the all-round experience that I believe to be essential to proper leadership in the governor's office. I know and I have worked with all classes of our people, and I have learned to understand their problems and to help them with their difficulties. I don't believe that anyone, regardless of his background, who has not had vital experience in various types of government, can possibly lead our people in the crisis ahead.

The campaign into every South Carolina county has reaffirmed my belief that the people of our state want a change—a big change, in government. They want a man whose political integrity and whose personal honesty are above reproach. They want a man who is determined to banish from public control selfish groups or cliques who want to continue to maintain their stranglehold upon our governmental affairs and the resulting personal gains. These good, average citizens, who have worked strenuously on the home front during the war, or who have fought courageously in uniform, have realized that false promises mean nothing and they are tired of dictatorial groups governing them.

And in this tour around South Carolina, I have received word from workers, from farmers, from housewives, from business and professional men, from the young and the old, that they are convinced that Strom Thurmond is the candidate for governor who can best cope with the problems of government and the domination of that small more
group of conniving men who want to perpetuate themselves in power.

South Carolina needs a leadership in government that will carry it to great heights. It cannot have this leadership unless its governor has had the experience necessary to give him a background in administrative affairs.

Aside from industrial and agricultural progress, I believe that the people of the state are also interested in sound, business-like administration of their affairs. They believe in good government. And they know that Strom Thurmond is the man who has the experience and who possesses the determination to provide good government.

The people of our state are by nature God-fearing and law-abiding and have a keen and wholesome respect for law and order. They want and expect the laws of the state to be enforced by the governor, without fear or favor and without partiality or privilege. It is the duty of the governor to see that this is done and as governor I shall do my best to cooperate with the local authorities in each county, city or town to the end that the wishes of the people shall be carried out.

It is particularly important, in view of the increase in crime in other parts of the country, as the aftermath of war, that we have a governor for the next four years who is determined to see that lawlessness shall not be tolerated in our state.

The governor should enforce our law fearlessly and courageously and he should not allow individuals or groups to escape from the even justice and mercy of our laws and courts.

And when these courts have tried law violators, I shall not try to use the power of clemency to change their sentences or to spare them from the punishment which they have earned.

I have already shown my respect for the courts of the state by
resigning from the bench when I offered for governor, so that the courts might not, to the slightest extent, be involved in political discussion; and I shall exercise the power of clemency only in those rare cases where it was intended such by the constitution to be used. The power of clemency was written into the constitution to serve the ends of public justice, and not to enable a governor to act like an emperor or like Santa Claus with it.

While I shall never abuse the pardoning power as governor, it is my intention to recommend to the general assembly that an amendment to the constitution be submitted to the people by which the unlimited power of clemency now reposed in the governor shall be changed to end all possible abuses in the future.

One of the principal parts of my platform is that the state of South Carolina should utilize the talents of our women for government and taking more of a place of leadership in our state affairs. I think that the women of the state should serve on boards and commissions and that they, just as men, vote and exercise other rights of a Democracy, should be recognized and their abilities utilized.

I see no reason why capable women should not be appointed to high office in our state government. When you good people elect me your governor I will see to it that the women of our state are accorded the recognition in government that they deserve.

In the three and one half years that I served in the armed forces in this country, in Europe and in the Pacific, I saw many of the hardships of our soldiers and sailors. And, too, I saw great courage and great ability demonstrated by the men and women in uniform. It is important to the welfare of our state that more of these young men and women take part in our governmental affairs. It is proper and fitting that our Democratic party has extended the right to vote to young people.
of the party. A man who is old enough to fight for his country is old enough to vote for its officers and leaders. Now, these young and young men should take full advantage of the educational assistance being offered by the federal government and they should, if they fall in the young age bracket, do everything in their power to complete their education, and as Governor of this State I shall cooperate in every way possible.

The most important assets that we have is our young people. For many years it has been necessary for many of them to migrate to other states in order to make a living in agriculture or in industry or in business. We have been paying for the great educational costs and for the costs of rearing these young people and then have lost their talents and their productivity just at the time when they have become self-supporting and of financial benefit to the state. This migration of the young boys and girls must come to an end.

We can keep them in South Carolina by the wise creation of jobs on the farms and in business and in industry. In the few months since the war, some of our communities have received new industries or old ones have expanded. New jobs and new earning powers have thus been created and much of the money involved has been kept in South Carolina.

This is an ideal step. It is a step that must be followed by others. We must continue to use the efforts of the state research, planning and development board and the efforts of the various civic groups throughout the state to enlarge our industrial machine and to add to it by the careful selection of new industries. And we must continue to do all that is possible to make life and living on the farm more attractive to the younger generation. We must secure more rural electric lines, telephone lines and paved highways that serve the scattered populations away from the main centers of population.
Yes, South Carolina today has a chance to move forward industrially and to gain further in agriculture but it is doomed to remain a backward state unless it secures the right leadership in the governor's office for the next four years. Today, South Carolina needs honest, capable, experienced leadership—leadership that has the integrity to fight against great odds, leadership that will stand against dictatorial control by special interest, leadership that will encourage suitable industrial enterprises and improved farming methods, leadership that will make use of the best resources of our thousands of veterans, and leadership that will recognize the governing ability of women and place more of them in places of responsibility.

There can be no compromise with honesty in government. We must utilize the abilities of the highest type of individuals in all of our governmental departments. We must restore to the governor the powers that are rightfully his and we must eliminate completely from the state house the selfish domination of our affairs by a small ring of skillful, deceiving politicians.

This campaign, which comes to a close within a week, has been one filled with bitterness. I have spoken out clearly and pointedly on all issues that have been discussed. I have not attacked the other candidates running for this office, although I have been scandalously libeled by the mouthings of some of them and by the jibberjibber falsehoods of henchmen of other opponents. They have barked at Strom Thurmond because they know he is the leading candidate. They have yelped at him because they know that he cannot be dominated or controlled by selfish interests that would do harm to the good people of South Carolina. They have used personal vilification and violent attacks in an effort to get me to sway from the straight course I have taken on the issues before us. But I have ignored them and their silly
mouthings. They know that they are defeated. They know that they
and their bosses will have to stand at the bar of justice with the
good people of South Carolina as their jurors and their judge. They
are growing desperate. They are woefully uneasy. They are determined
to defeat me. But, thanks to the honest and thoughtful people
from Charleston to the mountains, from the Savannah river to North
Carolina—yes, thanks to the veterans who fought for the right way
of life and to the workers who produced on the home front, these self-
ish people are going to be disappointed.

My friends from all over South Carolina are overjoyed at
the way the campaign is progressing. The other candidates are yapping
at me now in a last minute, but futile, effort to turn the tide of
voters away from Strom Thurmond.

But, my friends, this cannot be done. I want to tell you
the results of a straw vote taken recently in one of the most populous
counties and one which has always paid steadfast attention to good
government. In that poll, taken by two other leading weekly newspapers,
people in all walks of life were asked how they were going to vote
in certain local races. In addition, they were asked about their
choice for governor.

All of the returns are not tabulated at the time of this
talk, but the latest information available shows that Strom Thurmond
has nearly three times the vote of the next highest candidate for
governor. That is what the people of one important county think of
Strom Thurmond and his chance of election on Next Tuesday. I am sure
that the same trend of public opinion exists in many, many other
counties. The trend to Strom Thurmond, that started at the opening of
the campaign, has continued and has grown as the campaign has moved
from county to county. The trend is picking up strength right now and
I am confident of the result. You can't find any substitute for experience and determination to accomplish the best things for the people of South Carolina.

Time has not permitted me to discuss in detail the shocking condition of affairs in our state government which has resulted in the virtual usurpation by powerful legislators of the functions of the executive branch of the government. I have made my position plain on every stump in the state and I tell you now that it is necessary that you have as governor of South Carolina a man who has had experience in government and who has the desire and strength to throw off the yoke of those who wish to control our government for their own purposes. 

In order to accomplish this task—and I tell you truthfully that these men of greed and power are firmly entrenched—a governor must have a background of experience and fair-dealing, and the ability and determination to get things done.

These men have publicly shown that I am the candidate whom they do not want. They do not want me because they know I will be the governor and will not do their bidding or submit to their control. They realize that I am the one candidate who will have the experience and training in public service to break their grip on our government.

And so as I thank you for your attention, I caution you to be on guard in the next few days. These desperate men are so worried they are likely to spread false and malicious rumors about Strom Thurmond. They see their power waning. They lust to retain control.

With the promise that I shall use every resource at my command to restore the government to the people of South Carolina, I wish you good night and good government.

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