The climax of all state-wide political campaigns comes in Columbia. This week I and the other candidates for governor are making our last appeals for support from voters here and elsewhere over South Carolina. By this time next week the results of the races will be known.

The support that I have received here as well as throughout South Carolina leads me to believe that when those results are known that we will find that Strom Thurmond is the leading candidate. And when I am elected your governor, my election will be a triumph of good government. It will truly be a victory for the common people of South Carolina--for the working man, for the teacher, for the business man and for the farmer.

The good people of South Carolina are behind me. They know that Strom Thurmond has always stood for right; that his record of public service over a period of 23 years is a record of determination to help all people of our state and to assist the state itself progress to the high level that rightfully belongs to it.

Tonight I want the people of Columbia and the surrounding territory to hear my platform and to learn of my ambitions for South Carolina.

I think tonight, just as I thought when the campaign opened more than two months ago, that the principal issue in this campaign is the question of experienced, good government. I said on the first stump meeting that South Carolina needed a change in government—a big change. That it needed a governor who was experienced in affairs of the state and needed a governor who would fight the battle of the people, and to rid the state government of the power of a few selfish men whose group wants to dictate the policies of our executive branch of government, control the legislature and exert pressure over many of our state departments.

I said those things in my first campaign address. I say the same things tonight.
We need in South Carolina a man whose government experience, and whose personal and political integrity, warrant the confidence of the average citizen who has no pipe-line into the chambers of the great, and who has no expensive lobbyist to plead his cases. We need a governor who actually believes in the people and whose record of public service is one open and free from blemish.

I have given 23 years of public service to the people of South Carolina. I worked hard on a farm and in a cotton mill, and after being graduated from Clemson college, I taught school. Later I became superintendent of education in my home county. I studied law at night. I passed the examinations to become a practicing attorney. I was elected state senator and I was re-elected without opposition.

When a vacancy occurred in my judicial circuit, I was elected judge. Less than an hour before the final voting, the leaders of the selfish group now trying to defeat me were backing another man for judge. They saw they were licked and they abandoned hope of defeating Strom Thurmond for judge—just, my friends, as they are desperately fearful that they have lost their grudge fight to keep me from being elected governor. When they realized that they could not beat me for the judgeship, they did not even have the courage to nominate their man and I was elected by acclamation.

I was serving as judge when the Pearl Harbor disaster occurred. The next day, I volunteered my services and I served more than three and a half years in the army. I served in this country and I served in Europe, where I landed by glider on D-day with the 82nd Airborne Division, and in the Pacific. When I was discharged last October, I returned to the bench and served as judge until the spring.

When I decided to run for governor, I resigned from the bench before making my announcement.

That is my record of public service. That shows how I have served.

It shows, too, that I have had the experience in governmental affairs so essential to cope with the problems of our state.
A man without experience will be easily deceived and misguided by the cunning, conniving men who seek to continue their stranglehold on our government.

This campaign has been filled with disgraceful personal attacks upon me by some of my opponents and by henchmen of others. I have not attacked the other candidates for governor, although I have been remorsefully attacked by some of them.

But the campaign has had its better side. I now come toward its close convinced that the good people of South Carolina have awakened to the threats to their prosperity and to their existence. The response to my demands for honesty and integrity in government has been overwhelming. The response to my contention that the people of our state want a change in government has been extremely gratifying. The response to my program of worthwhile industrial progress and modernization of our farming methods has told me the people are awake to the needs. Everywhere I go, I am met by people who join in the demands for good government and for courageous administration of our state's affairs.

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. I say that that leadership must be experienced in government and must be determined to work for all the people rather than for special interests.

No governor can promise, with a semblance of good grace, to pass any law because the governor does not make laws. He enforces them, and he recommends to the legislature passage of laws. We need in South Carolina an era of law enforcement that is impartial and that is fair. We need the application of our laws to all the people and to refuse protection of a favored few. Because I feel that local law enforcement is more responsive to the will of the people, I am strongly opposed to a state police system. I believe that law enforcement should be close to the people and that law enforcement in general should be left to the counties and the municipalities.
The state highway patrol has done a wonderful job throughout the years in its specialized work and I hope to see the patrol continue to function on our highways and in close cooperation with local officers. It has been my observation that the people of our counties and towns can be depended upon to select sheriffs, county police and municipal police who will see that the law is enforced.

I think that the governor should have at his disposal a reasonable number of constables that he can use to enforce statewide laws or can have available for assistance anywhere in the state when called upon by local authorities. But I do not believe that the state constabulary should be used as a political tool, or as a dangling menace to be held over the head of a community or to offer protection to evil individuals who want to escape the fair administration of our laws.

I cannot stress too strongly the needs for expansion of our educational facilities. Thousands of our veterans will be unable to go to college in South Carolina this year. I hope that they will be able to find room to continue their studies in some other states—states that have been progressive enough to provide space for the young men and women who want to complete their education. To me it is a thrilling sight to see mature men going to our colleges determined to learn all that they can before going into the business or professional world.

It is a shame that South Carolina has done little for these men. One of the first measures that I shall propose to the legislature when I am your governor is one to provide proper facilities for the higher education of our people.

It shall be my plan, when I am elected, to see that the capable women of South Carolina are given more responsible positions in our state government. For too long, we men have fumbled through critical situations without the assistance of our brilliant women leaders. I believe that they should be appointed to many boards and commissions and to active working jobs in our various departments. We are denying ourselves opportunities of gaining capable leaders by not appointing women to executive jobs.
The triumph of good government that the people of South Carolina demand is moving toward realization. The election of Strom Thurmond as governor is near a reality. Reports are coming to me from all over South Carolina that spontaneous rallies for Thurmond are being held and that the opposition is fading away. But we must not rest this week. We must go on fighting for honesty and decency in government, and the rights of the average citizen, until the forces of greed and selfishness have been decisively defeated.

And they will be beaten, my friends. The forces which strive for private gain at the expense of the welfare of the common people will be beaten. The forces for righteousness and for honesty and for return of the government to the people will triumph with the election of Strom Thurmond as governor.

In the last days remaining in this campaign you will hear a lot of false rumors about the strength of some of my opponents. The results of a straw vote taken in a populous upstate county demonstrate who is going to win at the polls next Tuesday. The last results that I have seen show that Strom Thurmond has nearly three times as many votes as the next highest candidate for governor and I am told that this week's results will continue to show the same trend.

That shows you what the people of South Carolina think of my platform and of the platforms of the others in this race. The people of South Carolina have grown in wisdom and in political sagacity. No longer can they be fooled by demagogues and no longer can they be controlled by dictatorial politicians who have manipulated vast blocs of voters for selfish interests.

There has been an awakening in South Carolina. The thousands of veterans have come back from the wars firm in the belief that they are going to have good government, honest elections and they are prepared to insist on their demands for them. They have come into contact with soldiers and sailors from other states—XXX states which do have efficient administration of their affairs—and they are justified in their strenuous efforts to effect a big change in the governmental affairs of this state.
And the people who worked at home during the war, and worked hard while greedy individuals grew rich on war-time prosperity, are just as determined that our state shall move ahead to industrial greatness and to agricultural prosperity. They want to see new industries and enterprises, with high wage levels and splendid working conditions, brought into this state. They want to use South Carolina's own capital to finance these enterprises whenever possible and they do not want to have the state continue to stagger along under the burdensome load of a bunch of political hacks who wish to continue their domination of state affairs. I shall take every step possible to encourage the location and establishment of industry in this state, but I shall never ask that an industry locate here on the ground of cheap labor. We have no cheap labor in South Carolina. Labor in South Carolina is as good as that of any state in the union and should be paid for at just wages.

Yes, my friends, there has been an awakening in South Carolina.

That awakening will come to its fruition on Tuesday's primary. It will come in the triumph for good government and for experience in public affairs.

That triumph will mean that Strom Thurmond, working in close cooperation with the state legislature, will support a program of progressive government. No governor can succeed without the confidence and helping hand of the senate and the house. It is my pleasure to know most of the candidates for these two legislative bodies and I assure you that I will be happy to work with virtually all of them. There are a few who should be returned to private life and political oblivion, and I am sure that the voters will attend to most of these when the time comes.

My legislative experience, during which I specialized on teacher, education and welfare legislation, will help me tremendously in working with the new House and the new Senate. I look forward toward a period of splendid cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of our government—a cooperative movement for the betterment of South Carolina rather than the present system of dictatorial control of
present system of dictatorial control of both the legislature and the governor's office by that small group of predatory individuals.

This cooperation will come only with the election of Strom Thurmond, because my government and legislative experience alone fit me to cope with the complex problems of our state's affairs. I will not be fooled by schemes and machinations that would delude a less experienced individual. I know the pitfalls of the legislative machinery and I know how to avoid them.

And, so I want the Democrats of South Carolina to remember for the next few days that the man who is going to win this campaign for governor is Strom Thurmond, and that he is going to win because the good people of South Carolina are behind him in his efforts to bring to our government political integrity, personal honesty and administrative experience in public service.

I am offering for governor on my record of 23 years of public service—a record that began when I was a teacher at the age of 20 and progressed until I was a soldier in combat at the age of 40. I am offering on my record of the experience as a teacher, as a county superintendent of education, as a senator from Edgefield county, as a judge on our circuit bench, and as a soldier. That is my record and upon that record I stand tonight.

In these years of public service, I have reached all levels of our population. I have learned the problems of the farmer, of the wage earner, of the housewife and of the businessman. I believe that my background and my knowledge of state affairs justify my belief that on next Tuesday I will be known to most of you voters and I sincerely hope that I am going to receive your support.

When you vote next Tuesday, remember that you are selecting one of the candidates as the head of your government. Look at their records. Look at their experience. Look at their ability. Look at their platforms and their pledges—and what is important, look at their associates. And when you have studied these records, I believe that you will find that Strom Thurmond's 23 years of public service as teacher, senator, judge and soldier qualify him for your support.