

[1954]

COLUMBIA - (Special) - Governor James F. Byrnes, one of the nation's outstanding Democrats and statesmen, this week announced his unqualified support of Strom Thurmond, write-in candidate for the United States Senate.

Said South Carolina's governor, and the nation's former "assistant president":

"I want my position to be clear. I would not vote for any person in South Carolina nominated by the Committee under the circumstances in which this nomination was made. I have told friends who asked me privately and I now say publicly I shall write in the name of Strom Thurmond

"I follow his leadership in this fight with full realization of the difficulties. But in all our history, South Carolinians have not let difficulties deter them from doing what they believe to be right."

Commenting on Mr. Thurmond's record, Governor Byrnes declared:

"It took courage for Thurmond to lead this fight for the people. He is a man of courage. . . . As a Judge, he was exempt from military service (but), . . .Strom Thurmond resigned and volunteered. He asked for combat service. He got it. . . .

"From the records of this (the Governor's) office, I know that as Governor he was honest, forthright, capable and courageous.

"Strom Thurmond is clean in his personal life as well as in his public life."

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Meanwhile, Thurmond's campaign gathered added momentum throughout the State as November 2nd nears. On Tuesday night of last week, a mid-State rally was held in Orangeburg, attended by several hundred supporters. Although Candidate Thurmond himself was ill in Columbia, his followers heard talks by Senator J. M. Morrison of Georgetown, Mayor Neville Holcombe of Spartanburg, and former Congressman Hugo Sims of Orangeburg. Mrs. Jean Thurmond was present in her husband's stead, and drew loud cheers from the gathering.

On Saturday, Mr. Thurmond flew to Seneca where he spoke to a rally of more than 500 people, drawn from throughout the Piedmont and mountain areas of the State. Said he:

"Because I am leading this fight for the right of the people to vote, my democracy is being challenged. But my opponent has never denied that he voted for me in 1948. Was he any more loyal to the Truman Democrats when he voted for me than I was when I ran against Harry Truman?"

The same evening, former Governor Thurmond addressed another large audience in Greenville and surrounding counties when he spoke over TV Station WFBC. Once again Thurmond stressed the fact that:

"This is a fight for principle. A vote for me is a vote for the right of suffrage."

On Sunday, a group of Baptist laymen representing ten Spartanburg county churches announced their endorsement of Strom Thurmond for the United States Senate. A resolution passed by the group stated that:

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"We urge all Christian citizens to support the candidacy of J. Strom Thurmond for the United States Senate because of the stand taken by Edgar A. Brown on the liquor question."

This week, Candidate Thurmond is winding up his campaign for the seat of the late Burnett Rhett Maybank. His schedule calls for television appearances in Augusta, Charleston, Greenville, Charlotte, and Anderson during this last week before General Election Day, and for personal appearances in Laurens, Greenville and Charleston. He will also address television viewers over the State from Columbia next Monday night, November 1.