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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 20, 1976



The President
White House
Washington, D.C.

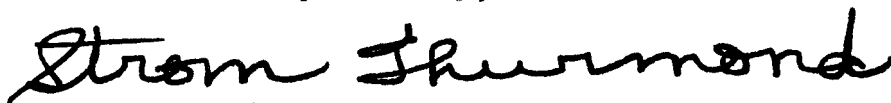
Dear Mr. President:

Find attached a copy of a statement I am releasing to the press today. It confirms the statement I gave you in January that I was committed to vote for Governor Reagan at the 1976 Republican Convention.

Since I hold you in high esteem I wanted you to see exactly what my statement said. Again, I assure you of my full support in the event you receive the nomination.

As the Convention draws near and questions about my position increase, I felt it only fair and just to all concerned that this statement be issued now instead of at the last minute.

Respectfully,



Strom Thurmond

ST/wt
Attachment

THURMOND

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (R-SC) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT HIS VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD AUGUST 16-19, 1976, IN KANSAS CITY, MO. JULY 20, 1976

In 1972, Governor Ronald Reagan and I visited Charleston, South Carolina, to make speeches in behalf of Governor James B. Edwards who was then a candidate for the State Senate. While there, Governor Reagan indicated to me his intention to run for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1976. I have known Governor Reagan since about 1960 and have admired his positions on sound government. As Chief Executive of the largest State in the nation, he proved to be a decisive and dynamic leader. When he asked in 1972 for my support in 1976 I was pleased to make such a commitment to him. I plan to keep my commitment by voting for him at the Kansas City convention.

In January of this year I informed President Ford of my position and he understood. I think highly of President Ford and should be pleased to support enthusiastically whichever of these two outstanding men receives the Republican nomination at the convention next month.