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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE DELIVERED AT  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1974

Thank you, Strom Thurmond.

The motto of the sovereign state of South Carolina is "Prepared in Spirit and Resources." And Strom Thurmond is certainly that. In fact, there are two days in particular which prove that Strom Thurmond has really been "Prepared in Spirit and Resources." One is Election Day -- and the other is Father's Day!

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Greenville -- the textile capital of the world.

Frankly, I would not have been surprised to see an empty room here today. I thought everyone would already be at the Clemson homecoming.

I appreciate your making the sacrifice. And I also appreciate the presence here today of a distinguished South Carolinian who is also an important member of my Cabinet -- Commerce Secretary Fred Dent.

To me, the fact that America's Secretary of Commerce hails from South Carolina is a tribute to this great State and to its importance to the region and the Nation.

Next Monday, when the Southern Textile Exposition opens here, we will have another reminder of South Carolina's important contribution to the American economy.

I am well aware of the importance of the textile and apparel industries to the economy of this State -- as well as the Nation. I am also aware of the very competitive conditions facing this industry.

The economic program which I submitted to the Congress will, if enacted in its entirety, help to restore economic growth and price stability to the country. This will aid all elements of our economy.

I am also conscious of the special importance of developments in international trade as they affect textiles. I assure you I intend to make sure the U.S. position is made clear in international textile trade matters.

In this connection I must say that no State ever had a stronger guardian of its interests -- including the textile industry that provides so many jobs and opportunities here -- than my old friend -- Senator Strom Thurmond. Strom has pioneered the building of a strong two-party system in the South; he has helped South Carolina take her well-deserved place in the sun.

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Strom, I'm glad to see that here in South Carolina there is no such thing as a generation gap -- young, old, and in between, everyone is united in working for a better State, a better America, and a better two-party system.

And the best way to do that is exactly what the South Carolina Republican Party is doing -- giving the voters the best candidates available, men and women of honor, integrity, courage and vision.

I know that you have done this in the case of Jim Edwards. He will make an outstanding governor. Having served as a State Senator, Jim understands state government. He knows how it works. He knows how to get things done.

But Jim and his running mate, Carroll Campbell, will bring something even more important to your State Government -- strong character and a breath of fresh air. It isn't good for any group or party to hold all the power for too long. Problems pile up. Interest and energy go stale. Lack of competition leads to carelessness, sometimes even neglect. Sometimes even corruption.

A political monopoly -- one party in absolute power too long -- is never a good thing, state-wide or nation-wide.

Jim Edwards can clear away the cobwebs and bring new life, new dedication to state government here in South Carolina. He has my full support and I hope that you will give him yours as well -- your time, your efforts and your votes.

I am also proud of the calibre of the candidates our party is fielding in other important races across the state.

In the Second District, Floyd Spence is a proven leader and a dedicated Congressman -- a man I had the pleasure of working with while I was Republican Leader in the House of Representatives. -- a man I will be counting on next year to help me fight the long, hard battle against big government spending and the double-digit inflation it breeds.

The same is true of Ed Young in the Sixth District. In a Congress that has too often overspent and fanned the flames of inflation, Ed Young has been a tough, loyal inflation fighter. I had the pleasure of working with him when I was in the House and hope I continue to have the same honor now that I am in the White House.

In the Third District, you have an outstanding candidate in Marshall Parker -- a man who has worked hard for both his state and his country. Marshall is a cattle farmer who understands farmer's problems and aspirations. He will represent them in the Congress. He is also an experienced businessman with a first-hand knowledge of the textile industry that is so important to everyone in South Carolina. He will guard your interests in the Congress, and he will help me to do my job in fighting for a strong, secure America -- for a balanced budget and a healthy national economy.

In the Fifth District, you have another top-flight candidate in Len Phillips. Although Len has youth on his side, he is also a man of great experience and solid principles. His experience in broadcasting goes back nearly twenty years. He knows his District and his state from years of civic and volunteer work, and from his active leadership role in the Republican Party.

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Len will be an inflation fighter in Washington -- not a big spender. He will be good for the Fifth District and good for America.

A few moments ago, I mentioned the importance of a two-party system. This is a theme that I have been stressing everywhere as I travel across the country. It bears repeating -- particularly here in the South where we now have a viable two-party system. Let's make sure we keep it!

There are several reasons why I believe this so strongly.

First, I believe that our Democracy is only safe as long as we have a healthy two-party system, and;

Secondly, I believe that the two-party system is in grave danger today -- perhaps the greatest danger it has faced in our lifetimes.

No President in this century was more bi-partisan than Dwight Eisenhower. He was a military hero, beloved by all. He came into office with the massive support of voters from both parties.

Although he never really considered himself a politician, no one knew better than Ike how vital a two-party system is to the future of this country.

A few years before his death, at his farm in Gettysburg, Ike shared his thoughts with me on this important subject. What he said then is even more timely today.

If I can paraphrase, this is roughly what he said:

We are tending too much in the direction of a one-party system in the United States. We are awfully close to a political monopoly power in this country.

Ike went on to explain what was at stake. He said that if we have an approximate equality between our political parties, it will keep one party or the other from becoming extremist in its position. But if we lack this balance in our political system, if one party stays in power too long, it will become increasingly difficult to stop its excesses.

That is what is happening on Capitol Hill in Washington. We have a party that has controlled the national legislature for 38 out of the last 42 years and for the past 20 straight years. It is a Congress stacked against fiscal responsibility. Proof of this is the fact that for 19 of 25 years in the House, we wound up with budget deficits.

If this heavy majority of spenders is substantially increased in the 94th Congress, the two-party system of government established by our Founding Fathers will be in serious danger.

We will have what amounts to a legislative dictatorship -- a Congress with no checks and no balance. The first time that happened -- and South Carolina knows this better than anyone -- was in the dark days after the Civil War when a dictatorial Congress left a legacy of bitterness, poverty and humiliation that scarred the South for generations.

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Today, those scars are healed. A proud new South is a full partner in the American way of life -- the American dream. And this New South -- each of you are a part of it -- can help to show America the way this November.

This time, you can help to save the two-party system. This time, you can lead the way by electing candidates like Jim Edwards, Carroll Campbell, Floyd Spence, Marshall Parker, Len Phillips and Ed Young -- men of honor, men of integrity, men who are pledged to fight inflation, serve their states, and preserve America's honor and America's security.

It is up to you and me -- and to every other man and woman blessed with the good fortune to live in this great, free country where all of us have a say in our government and a voice in our elections -- to do everything we can to preserve the balance, the system that has made America great and kept America free.

It is not just in our interest. It is our sacred duty.

"Duty", Robert E. Lee once said, "is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less."

That is what I ask of each of you between now and November 5th.

Do your best -- your best for your party -- your State and your Nation.

Together we can transform these difficult days into great days in America's history.

Together we do our duty and meet our obligation to the children and grandchildren who will inherit the kind of America we leave them.

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