

April 24, 1985

OPENING REMARKS  
DINNER FOR THE STROM THURMOND CENTER  
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY DINNER  
CAPITOL HILTON, PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

FIRST, LET ME SAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO BE HERE TONIGHT AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR STROM AND LEND MY SUPPORT TO THE STROM THURMOND CENTER AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY.

STROM IS MUCH MORE THAN A SENATE COLLEAGUE. HE IS A GOOD AND TRUSTED FRIEND, A CONFIDANTE, AN ADVISER, AND A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SENATE LEADERSHIP AS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE.

STROM TRAVELLED WITH ME AND SEVERAL OTHER SENATORS TO EUROPE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. AFTER A LENGTHY TRANSATLANTIC JOURNEY-- A GRUELING SCHEDULE THAT INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH A NUMBER OF NATO LEADERS, FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES-- STROM WAS STILL GOING STRONG.

IN FACT, FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE STILL TRYING TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF A MYSTERIOUS AMERICAN WHO DANCED THE NIGHT AWAY AT THE WORLD FAMOUS LIDO, ON THE CHAMPS ELYSES. I COULD NOT PERSONALLY ATTEST TO HIS IDENTITY, BUT I HAVE AN INKLING HE MIGHT BE IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT.

ALL KIDDING ASIDE, THE STROM THURMOND CENTER REPRESENTS THE BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. THERE IS NO GOAL MORE IMPORTANT THAN INSPIRING THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

AND THERE IS NO ONE MORE APPROPRIATE TO HONOR, BY NAMING A PLACE WHERE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN CAN STUDY GOOD GOVERNMENT, THAN STROM THURMOND.

STROM HAS DEDICATED HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE. AS A CITIZEN, SOLDIER, AND STATESMAN, STROM HAS SPENT 60 YEARS STRIVING TO MAKE AMERICA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

FIRST, AS AN EDUCATOR, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, STATE SENATOR, CIRCUIT JUDGE. THEN, AS A DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS AS A UNITED STATES SENATOR, STROM THURMOND HAS EXEMPLIFIED THE THE GOALS AND IDEALS THE CENTER AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY WILL BE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE.

NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER COLLEAGUE, ONE WHO SERVES ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WITH BOTH STROM AND ME ALTHOUGH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE-- SEN. JOE BIDEN OF DELAWARE.

MEMO TO: SENATOR  
FROM: DALE  
RE: SPEECH FOR THURMOND DINNER

YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE TOASTMASTER FOR THIS EVENT. YOUR REMARKS SHOULD LAST TWO-TO-THREE MINUTES. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON, SENATOR BIDEN WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR FOR SEN. BYRD AND READ A LETTER FROM BYRD. IT WAS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER SEN. HOLLINGS WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND. DR. BILL ATCHLEY, PRESIDENT OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY WILL BE THERE.

I HAVE ATTACHED A COPY OF THE DINNER PROGRAM AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTER.

SENATOR HOLLINGS HAS ASKED THAT YOU READ THE ATTACHED LETTER.

- I. Welcome Guests (Recognize Clemson President, Chairman Board of Trustees)
  - A. Honor to be here as we help support Strom Thurmond Center and pay tribute to the man for whom it is named.
  - B. Humor. Perhaps a joke about Thurmond.
  
- II. Thank Guests for Generosity
  - A. More than \$650,000 has been raised by this dinner (figure may be adjusted upwards).
  - B. Money and presence at dinner is strong symbol of the support guests have in good government and public service and for Strom Thurmond.
  
- III. Thurmond Center Dedicated to Good Government and Promotion of Public Service.
  - A. America's best hope is her young people. This center, located at Strom's alma mater, Clemson University, will be dedicated to ensuring that students with an interest in government and public service have a place for serious study.
  - B. Already the Thurmond Institute, an integral part of the Center, has sponsored lectures, debates, and other programs involving government officials, leaders of foreign governments, authors, and journalists.
  
- IV. Fundraising for Center a National Effort
  - A. More than \$3.5 million in pledges and cash for Center has been raised.
    1. \$25 million goal
  - B. Comedian Bob Hope, Former Texas Governor and U.S. Treasury Sec'y. John B. Connally among official founders. The complete list of founders is as follows: John B. Connally, Mrs. Nancy Thurmond, Buck Mickel, Winton M. Blount, William W. Bruner, Anna Chennault, Robert E. Coleman, Robert K. Gray, W. Jack Greer, Bob Hope, M. P. Niven, Robert B. Russell, James C. Self, Robert Small, W. Clement Stone, R. E. (Ted) Turner, E. Craig Wall, Jr., and John G. Wellman.

V. Fitting that Center be Named after Thurmond

- A. Strom's Whole Life Dedicated to Government, Public Service and Strengthening America.
- B. Strom has served as a school teacher and athletic coach, School Superintendent, County and City Attorney, State Senator, Circuit Judge, decorated World War II veteran (who gave up security of a draft exemption because he was a judge and volunteered for D-Day invasion), Governor of South Carolina, United States Senator.
  - 1. He is now a valued member of the Republican Leadership as President Pro Tempore.

IV. Closing Remarks