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SUMMARY OF REMARKS
BY
SOUTH CAROLINA SENATOR
STROM THURMOND
April 8, 1996

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY -- AND PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SO MANY DISTINGUISHED SOUTH CAROLINIANS:

[THANKS TO GOV'S CAMPBELL, BEASLEY, ETC.]

I AM HAPPY TO SEE SO MANY FAMILIAR AND FRIENDLY FACES I'VE WORKED WITH TO HELP MAKE SOUTH CAROLINA A STRONG AND CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN STATE -- A STATE THAT HONORS OUR FAMILIES, HONORS OUR FLAG, AND HONORS THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS OVER THE EXCESSES OF LIBERAL BIG-GOVERNMENT.

OUR GREAT STATE IS VERY, VERY SPECIAL: WE CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER, HELP ONE ANOTHER, AND REVERE AND RESPECT THE HUMAN KINDNESS OF OTHERS THAT HELPS MAKE US A GOOD, HONEST AND DECENT PEOPLE.

THAT'S HOW I HAVE TRIED TO CONDUCT MY BUSINESS ON YOUR BEHALF: THERE'S NO PROBLEM TOO SMALL TO HELP SOLVE FOR A FELLOW SOUTH CAROLINIAN. WE'RE FAMILY -- AND FAMILIES HELP ONE ANOTHER.

I HAVE WORKED HARD TO HELP OUR CITIZENS SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA -- AND I HAVE VOTED IN THE SENATE TO HELP OUR PEOPLE VOICE THEIR CONSERVATIVE VALUES AND VIEWPOINTS IN WASHINGTON.

I BELIEVE I HAVE DONE SO WITH INTEGRITY, DONE SO WITH HONOR, AND DONE SO WITH CARE AND COMPASSION.

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE IS MORE THAN JUST MY JOB; SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA, AND SERVING OUR PEOPLE, IS MY LIFE'S WORK.

WHEN I CONSIDERED WHETHER TO SEEK REELECTION AS YOUR U.S. SENATOR -- I WEIGHED MANY FACTORS, AND CONSULTED MANY FRIENDS.

I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENED IN 1994 -- SOMETHING I JUST COULD NOT OVERLOOK.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A GENERATION, REPUBLICANS CONTROL BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS -- AND WE NOW HAVE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT A CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENT.

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REAL, LASTING CONSERVATIVE CHANGE FOR OUR GREAT NATION ARE JUST TOO IMPORTANT TO WALK AWAY FROM, AND TO LEAVE BEHIND AS MERE POSSIBILITIES.

HAVING HELPED FOUND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE SOUTH -- AND HAVING BEEN A DEVOTED CONSERVATIVE COMMITTED TO SMALLER GOVERNMENT, LOWER TAXES, AND SENDING MORE POWER BACK TO OUR STATES -- I WANT TO HELP FINISH THE JOB THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ENTRUSTED US TO COMPLETE.

THE WASHINGTON LIBERALS -- WHO, FOR 40 YEARS, PRESIDED OVER THE CREATION OF AN UNACCOUNTABLE, BLOATED AND IMMORAL WELFARE STATE -- ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO UNDERMINE CHANGE, AND TO STOP PROGRESS.

THAT IS JUST WRONG -- WRONG FOR SOUTH CAROLINA, AND WRONG FOR AMERICA. THIS FIGHT MUST CONTINUE -- AND I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY CONFIDENT THAT STROM THURMOND IS BEST QUALIFIED TO ADVANCE OUR CONSERVATIVE CAUSE AND ISSUES IN WASHINGTON.

STROM THURMOND *DOESN'T LIKE* UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA *WILL NOT TOLERATE* UNFINISHED BUSINESS;

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD* UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

FOR THAT REASON, I AM ANNOUNCING THAT I WILL AGAIN BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE FROM THIS GREAT STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

WE MUST MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO FINALLY PASS A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET THAT PROTECTS OUR POCKETBOOKS AS IT PROTECTS THE LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR CHILDREN, AND THE HOPEFUL DREAMS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WE MUST KEEP OUR NATION STRONG MILITARILY AS WE FACE A CHANGING, CHALLENGING AND DANGEROUS WORLD.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S HONORED MILITARY TRADITION, SERVICE TO COUNTRY, AND REVERANCE TO FLAG, IS THE EMBODIMENT OF WHAT'S GOOD -- AND WHAT'S RIGHT-- ABOUT AMERICA.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, I WILL WORK TO REVERSE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DISTURBING AND DANGEROUS ATTEMPTS TO GUT OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND TO WEAKEN OUR ARMED FORCES.

AS RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, I WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO PROVIDE FAIR BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT, AND SERVED, FOR OUR COUNTRY.

WORKING ON THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, I WILL CONTINUE MY EFFORT TO STREAMLINE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPEALS PROCESS.

ONE OF MY PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAS BEEN TO APPOINT CONSERVATIVE JUDGES TO THE FEDERAL BENCH -- CONSERVATIVE JUDGES WHO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG, AND WHO SHOW COMPASSION TO AGGRIEVED VICTIMS, NOT THE HEARTLESS CRIMINALS.

OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE A REVOLVING DOOR OF APPEALS AND DELAY -- IT MUST BE A FAST TRACK TOWARDS PUNISHMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ONE'S ACTIONS.

AS OUR LIBERAL PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO EVADE HIS PROMISE TO "END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT", I WILL WORK WITH THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY TO RESTORE A SENSE OF DIGNITY AND SELF-WORTH TO A FAILED LIBERAL WELFARE SYSTEM THAT PROMOTES DEPENDENCY, MISERY AND HUMAN FAILURE.

THE TAXPAYERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CANNOT TOLERATE IT; THE LESS FORTUNATE WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELP DO NOT DESERVE IT.

THESE GREAT CHANGES YOU AND I HAVE FOUGHT FOR THROUGH THE YEARS ARE AT HAND -- AND ARE NOW WITHIN REACH.

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PASSING INTO LAW CONSERVATIVE CHANGE FOR OUR COUNTRY -- AND HELPING THE FAMILIES, TAXPAYERS AND WORKERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA -- THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR STANDING IN THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

TODAY, THAT IS WHERE I STAND.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE LIBERAL OBSTRUCTIONISTS IN CONGRESS ARE THE ONLY ONES STANDING IN THE WAY OF CONSERVATIVE CHANGE IN WASHINGTON, AND MORE PROGRESS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA.

WE CANNOT -- AND I WILL NOT – GIVE UP ON OUR MISSION TO RIGHT THE 40-YEAR WRONGS OF LIBERALISM.

I ASK THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AN IMPORTANT QUESTION:

WHO CAN DO MORE TO HELP STEER THE FUTURE OF AMERICA TOWARDS THE CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES WE BELIEVE IN, AND WHO CAN BEST CONTINUE TO DILIGENTLY – AND EFFECTIVELY – HELP ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA?

I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU TO HUMBLY SUGGEST THAT STROM THURMOND IS THAT INDIVIDUAL.

I AM PROUD TO HAVE ONE OF THE BEST CONSTITUENT SERVICE RECORDS IN THE U.S. SENATE -- AND I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE HELPING SOUTH CAROLINA BE THE BEST IT CAN POSSIBLY BE.

I HAVE GOTTEN THINGS DONE FOR OUR CITIZENS, AND HAVE MADE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN FOR OUR STATE. I LOVE SOUTH CAROLINA, AND I CHERISH HELPING AND SERVING THE GOOD PEOPLE OF OUR STATE.

THE MEASURE OF EVERY PUBLIC SERVANT IS HIS OR HER RECORD.

ON THAT BASIS, I RESPECTFULLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE, AND YOUR SHARED COMMITMENT, TO MAKING THE NEXT CENTURY ONE OF PROMISE, ONE OF HOPE, AND ONE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH CAROLINA -- AND FOR ALL OF THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

GOD BLESS SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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