

MSS 100

Strom Thurmond Collection

INTERIM (1955 - 1956)

2.25 cu. ft.

In keeping with the pledge he made to the people of South Carolina during his 1954 campaign, Senator Thurmond resigned as United States Senator effective April 4, 1956 so the State Democratic Convention could place the office in the summer primary. This series contains correspondence from U.S. Senators, former constituents and private citizens, most of which is dated between his resignation April 4, 1956 and his re-election to the Senate, November 6, 1956. It also includes some pamphlets and newspaper clippings. The letters are arranged in chronological order and are alphabetical by name and subject within each folder.

This series of records was created during the period when the Senator was working out of his law office in Aiken. The series consists primarily of veterans' inquiries, referrals to interim Senator Thomas Wofford's office, invitations to weddings and commencement exercises, job recommendations and congratulatory letters and telegrams to recently elected senators, congressmen and local officials. Thurmond also received congratulatory letters on his re-nomination to Senate without opposition. The Senator continued to correspond with his administrative assistant, Alex McCollough, who remained in Washington to serve with Senator Wofford, and other senators on legislative issues. Some notable correspondents include prominent national and state officials such as Edgar Brown, Walter Brown, William F. Buckley, James F. Byrnes, Harry S. Dent, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, Sam Ervin, Albert Gore, Lyndon B. Johnson, Olin D. Johnson, R. F. Poole, Mendel Rivers, Richard Russell, Adlai Stevenson, Herman Talmadge and George Bell Timmerman, Jr.

Some of Thurmond's letters provide insight into his opinions on certain political issues, such as states' rights. Of particular interest is a series of letters that Thurmond wrote to James F. Byrnes, one of which concerned "unfavorable editorials" written about himself and Byrnes. Another letter addressed to Ernest Burwell concerns the "bootlegging" of new Chevrolets into Spartanburg County and the steps that Thurmond favored to deter this practice.

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Interim Series

<u>ox</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	A	Apr. 7 - Oct. 22, 1956
	B	Mar. 31 - June 6, 1956
		June 7 - July 30, 1956
		June 7 - July 30, 1956
C	Apr. - July 3, 1956	
	July 6 - Oct. 13, 1956	
2	D	Apr. 5 - July 30, 1956
	E	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25, 1956
		Apr. 2 - Oct. 12, 1956
	F	Apr. 5 - Oct. 13, 1956
	G	Apr. 17 - Oct. 22, 1956
	H	Apr. - June 30, 1956
		July - Oct. 30, 1956
	3	I
J		Apr. 2 - Oct. 26, 1956
K		Apr. 9 - Oct. 11, 1956
L		Apr. 2 - Oct. 29, 1956
Mac - Mc		Apr. 4 - Oct. 14, 1956
M		Apr. 6 - July 6, 1956
4	N	July 7 - Oct. 26, 1956
		Apr. 9 - Oct. 13, 1956
	O	Apr. 4 - July 30, 1956
	P	Dec. 27, 1955 - July 27, 1956
		July 28 - Oct. 30, 1956
	Q	Apr. 10 - Oct. 8, 1956
	R	Apr. 6 - July 20, 1956
		July 25 - Oct. 12, 1956
	S	Mar. 29 - June 25, 1956
		June 26 - Aug. 30, 1956
5	T	Sept. 1 - Oct. 30, 1956
		Apr. 5 - Oct. 30, 1956
	U	June 5 - Oct. 11, 1956
	V	Apr. 10 - Sept. 20, 1956
	W	Mar. 30 - July 28, 1956
		Aug. 2 - Oct. 22, 1956
	Y	Apr. 9 - Oct. 10, 1956
	Z	Apr. 19 - July 24, 1956