STATEMENT OF UNPLEDGED ELECTORS
FROM MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA
Dec. 12 1960 — Jackson, Miss.

The eight Unpledged Electors from Mississippi and the six Unpledged Electors from Alabama have agreed unanimously to cast our votes for Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia for President of the United States.

Senator Byrd has won the ad\_miration and respect of Americans everywhere for the fearless battle he has waged for Constitutional principles.

Whether such a man will be in\_augurated as President of the United States in January, 1961, depends upon whether or not the people of the South who have expressed their dedication to the principles of Constitutional government and to the right of a state to determine for itself the questions of segregation and freedom of choice of instruction are sincere in their continued expressions of such dedication.

We have done and are doing everything possible in bringing the fight to preserve Constitutional government in America to the point of now presenting a viable and workable opportunity for the election of such a man as President.

We cannot, however, assure that election alone. The ultimate victory must depend upon the official leadership and the electors of the other Southern states.

In addition to the 14 Electoral votes which we shall cast in Mississippi and Alabama, only 32 Electoral votes will be required to assure that neither candidate receives a majority in the Electoral College.

Therefore, a total of 38 electoral votes cast in the four states of Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina.

If the people of Louisiana intend ultimately to win their fight for their Constitutional right to maintain segregated public schools in the city of New Orleans and throughout the State, and if Governor Jimmie Davis desires to maintain segregated schools instead of being jailed by a Federal Judge, then the movement for the New Orleans people, Louisiana Legislature, and Governor Davis to win their fight is to cast Louisiana's 10 electoral votes for Senator Byrd.

If Governor Orval Faubus wishes to prevent future armed invasion of the state, sovereign rights of the elected officials of that State are sincere in their opposition to Federal dictatorship, the only effective manner for them to accomplish these objectives is to cast Arkansas' 8 electoral votes for Senator Byrd. This makes 18 of the required 32 votes.

If Governor Vandiver recognizes his responsibility truly to carry out the desires of the majority of his people, as expressed in Georgia's recent vote for Unpledged Electors, and knowing that Senator Talmadge was realistic when he said, "I distinctly believe that all Southern states have not joined hands to throw the (presidential) election into the House of Representatives," they can lay aside their regrets. It is still not too late for them to take effective action by leading the 12 electors to cast their votes for Senator Byrd. This totals 30 of the required 32.

Governor John Patterson of Alabama recently challenged Federal dictatorship and usurpation of state sovereignty while commenting on the New Orleans crisis and on Federal seizure of the Alabama voting lists. He can strike a blow against such usurpation of State authority by influencing Alabama's 5 pledged electors to join with the 32 Unpledged Electors in voting for Senator Byrd. This additional 5 would bring the total to 35.

Feeling that Governor Ernest Hollings of South Carolina is dedicated to Constitutional conservatism and states rights, as he has so frequently stated, and also believes in the maintenance of segregation and the Democratic principles for which Wade Hampton and other South Carolinians in the past sacrificed their lives, then he can use the prestige of his office in influencing South Carolina's 8 electors to join in voting for Senator Byrd. This brings the unpledged vote, exclusive of the 14 meeting today, to a total of 43.

This vote would absolutely assure that Senator Kennedy would be denied a majority and that the election would be thrown into the House of Representatives. This is true even though all of these votes may not be required. The electoral vote in Illinois, for example, is being questioned. If it is very likely that the 27 electoral votes of that state will not be cast for any candidate, but will be withheld. In addition, some electoral votes may be gained from other states where individual recognition. It is the only possible means to effect a realistic change in the philosophy of national government and to preserve constitutional government and individual freedom for this nation. There is no other alternative.

The decision finally and the responsibility now rests directly upon the Governors, the Senators, the Congressmen, the public officials of these states. If we do not seize upon this opportunity to elect a great unselshate a man, who is recognized and respected throughout the nation, and who will preserve Constitutional government, then we must prepare to accept New Orleans, Little Rock, school integration, judicial despotism, and, finally, Federal dictation and tyranny.

We brand as specious the contention that, if the election should be thrown to the Electoral College, Senator Kennedy would be elected. This is not true. It is incredible that any Congressman from any of the Southern states could refuse to cast his vote and that of his state as a unit for a Southerner such as Senator Byrd, who has been recognized over the years as one of the strongest champions of the principles of Constitutional government.

In this situation, the Republicans—recognizing the inevitable defeat of Mr. Nixon and being fundamentally opposed to the liberalism of Senator Kennedy—would join these Southern Congressional delegations in asuring the election of Senator Byrd.

We have deliberately and unanimously refrained from the endorsement of a vice-presidential candidate. According to the Constitution, if neither vice-presidential candidate receives an electoral majority, the election of the vice-president becomes the responsibility of the Senate, which must select one of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes—unlike selection of a President, where the House of Representatives must choose from the three persons receiving the highest number of electoral college votes. While we are fundamentally and unalterably opposed to the election of either Mr. Lodge or Senator Johnson, we will not engage in any effort to defeat them, because it could not possibly succeed.

On the other hand, the election of Senator Byrd to the Presidency can be successful. It will be, if Southern electors, officials and people are truly dedicated to this effort, and to the basic principles of racial and moral integrity.