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58 x 18 – Trend of Government Today, Its Greatest Need (Control of Supreme Court)

Date: 5/04/58

Guest: Heber Ladner, Secretary of State

Morphew: Before we get started, I want to welcome all of our new listeners...this program is now heard all over the South in 11 southern states and we are adding new stations every day...guest is Heber Ladner, secretary of state, active member of Lumberton Citizens' Council and frequent speaker for the CC, and you've just finished serving a term as president for the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Ladner: That's correct, Dick.

Morphew: You've just completed the 4 month legislative session...what do you think is the greatest need in government today?

Ladner: Well, not so much, Dick, from the standpoint of state governments, especially in the South, but I think the greatest need in America today is to control, by proper legislation, the activity of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Morphew: What do you think is the greatest danger Americans face in regards to that problem?

Ladner: Well, as you know, the opinions that have come out of this Court since 1954, many of them are actually horrifying to liberty loving Americans as we know what liberty means. Take for instance, the decision on integration with public schools not even mentioned in the whole constitution. And then following that, this same court invalidated the anti-subversion and sedition laws of the states. In other words, this court preempted the power of the Congress and invalidated these statutes governing the very states on

anti-subversive activities. Then again, this same court freed several communists that had been convicted to prison terms. This same court opened up the files of the FBI to the communists and underworld. Now as I know government and as I have been taught to appreciate the great liberties of the people of this country, this is a foreign concept of government.

Morphew: Southern leaders are taking steps in congress to curb the power of the supreme court, aren't they?

Ladner: That's right, Dick, and in my way of thinking, the great debate that is to be held soon in the United States Senate is one of the greatest omens for good that I've seen come out of congress.

Morphew: The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported favorably to bills that could curb this power.

Ladner: That is correct. They are trying to curb the court and if they do so, if they pass these bills, of course they've been modified as originally introduced, but it will reaffirm the authority of the Congress, which is in my judgment the most important branch of government because those 435 people represent the various districts and states of this nation and not just one segment of society.

Morphew: To set people straight...the constitution itself states that the only power the court shall have is the power that congress chooses to give it.

Ladner: That's correct. I'd like to read Article III of the constitution: The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction both as to law and fact with such exceptions and under such regulations as a Congress may make.

Morphew: In other words, congress can decide if the court should get out of the public school debate.

Ladner: Well, as a matter of fact, the court in my way of thinking has usurped the powers of the congress, and unless the American people from coast to coast and from Canada to the Gulf Coast wake up it may not be too many generations until we lose our liberty as we've known it in the past.

Morphew: Do you feel that the south is winning the battle against racial integration?

Ladner: I certainly do. As I travel over this country I have a chance to talk to a lot of people and I never lose an opportunity to try to impress those with whom I talk of the dangers fraught with this new ideology and government. It's amazing, it's incredible to think that Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida...not a single one of those states has integrated a public school. And I say we are winning this battle because our people realize that it is wrong and they are standing pat, four square in this battle.

Morphew: Do the legal authorities and southern state governments seem to be taking a unified approach to this problem?

Ladner: Well, they are adopting the approach from this standpoint: as long as we refuse to accept this foreign concept of government, as long as we refuse to have placed over our minds a helmet to think as they tell us to think, we will win in this battle.

Morphew: Many states have adopted legislation and taking legal action against the NAACP as a group that is communist inspired and communist dominated.

Ladner: Well, the Congress has revealed that many of the directors of this organization throughout the country have been affiliated with such organizations, not everybody who is a member of the NAACP is a communist but I believe that the whole blueprint for dividing and conquering our people originated in this foreign concept of government and it's up to the American people, all of you who love your freedom, who love your families and the type of government that you have, it's the greatest government on earth, we should stand four square and refuse to accept such a concept of government.

Morphew: Just a year ago Louisiana and Florida held hearings on these influences in the race agitation picture...and Mississippi legislature has passed a resolution to take a similar measure.

Ladner: That's right. That's the Legislative Investigating Committee, the chairman of which is Senator Stanton Hall of Forest and Perry counties. This committee has been given the authority to look into the matter.

Morphew: Did the past session of the legislature pass any other measures regarding the NAACP

Ladner: Well, the legislature passed an act giving the attorney general the authority to dig into all corporations regardless and all organizations to see if there was any evidence of subversive inclinations in the leadership.

Morphew: And then there was another bill requiring registration of any groups whose directors were cited as having any communist links

Ladner: That's correct.

Morphew: Many other southern states have taken the same approach haven't they?

Ladner: All over the South, as a matter of fact.

Morphew: Why have the CCs been so effective in meeting this challenge with which we have been faced?

Ladner: Well, Dick, if, when we win this battle, it will be won on the local level, on a precinct level, and the citizens of the local community will determine what kind of a government they have on a local level. And this is a great organization. I'm proud to be a member of it. The idea of citizens' committees originated in the early colonial days in this country. Samuel Adams, of Massachusetts, was a member of the committee called the correspondence committee and that was the committee that had for its purpose the throwing overboard the autocratic rule of the people in that country and led to the revolutionary war and the freedom of this country.

Morphew: And the correspondence committees were condemned by the authorities in that day

Ladner: They certainly were, but they were effective.

Morphew: And the councils throughout the south are similarly effective

Ladner: I certainly think so. I think we're winning this battle. It's going to be a hard fought battle and it may go on into another (lost audio)...I believe that if the American people wake up to what's actually behind this new ideology in government, it's actually, the real thing behind it is to destroy our capitalistic form of government, I believe that.

Morphew: Southern states are trying to industrialize now, but some prominent industrialists have expressed the opinion that the south's resistance will hurt our chances of getting industry, do you think that's true?

Ladner: I think that's a gimmick on the part of some to cause the people, to break down the resistance to this whole opposition to integration. Now in my way of thinking, it will help us rather than hurt us. What we've got to do in this nation, we've got to learn to live separately yet live together and I'm proud to be a member of the state board of education, and I will compliment the 6000 colored teachers that are working day in and day out with the colored youth of this state to try to build a better place in which to live. And if they are let alone and Mississippi is doing a lot to raise the quality, type of educational programs for both the white and colored.