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Guest (s): Senator Strom Thurmond

Title: Positive Program for American Victory in the Cold War

Note: Questions were paraphrased and/or shortened by the transcriber. For the exact question, please consult the audiotapes.

Morphew: Introduction...set today's discussion on this theme, that essentially what we've been discussing on previous broadcasts has been criticism of what has taken place...essentially, this is negative. Is there a positive side to this? Do you have a positive program for American victory in the Cold War?

Thurmond: Yes, Dick, I have criticized the Republican administration and the Democratic administration too when I felt it was justified. I do have a positive program and I would like to discuss a little of that with you, if you would like to hear it.

Morphew: I certainly would.

Thurmond: Well, first, I think we have got to develop the will to win. It doesn't matter how strong our national defense is. We have got to convince the Communists of two things, at least: one is, we have the power to win; the second is, we have the will to win. And we ought to make this clear. Our leaders ought to make this clear, so that the leaders of other nations in the world will know that we intend to win. And when I say, win, I don't mean we have to fight a war, I mean to win in this Cold War, because if we can win the Cold War, I think we can avoid the hot war.

Morphew: What is the next point in your program?

Thurmond: Well, another point in my program is the need to inform the public and the military personnel about the insidious methods and operations of world Communism. To my judgment, our military people must understand the aims and the designs of Communism, and the aim of Communism is to dominate the world and the soldiers must know this. The people in the military and our civilian population ought to know this. Then the designs of Communism, how it operates, the insidious nature of it, the nature of this program is most important for people to understand, and our military people can be of great help in informing our military people and the civilians on this subject.

Morphew: Do you believe this should be done in addition to anything already being done?

Thurmond: Yes. I think we must recognize that we are engaged in a Cold War and that we are losing this Cold War and that we have got to win this Cold War. Now, we can win this war and avoid a hot war, as I said, if we will take the proper steps, if our people truly understand Communism, its designs and aims, the nature in which it operates, and if they understand that Mr. Lenin started out in Russia with 22,000 soldiers and now, today, we have a billion eight and a quarter million people behind the Iron Curtain, thirty-six percent of the world's population, and they occupy twenty-six percent of the world's land mass.

Morphew: Well, of course, a cold war can be just as destructive of people's freedom as a hot war, can't it?

Thurmond: That's right, and we must learn to act decisively. It's very important that we call the Communists' bluffs and determine to fight if necessary. We must be willing to fight if we are going to maintain freedom. Now, I think if we are prepared to fight and have the will to fight and convince them of this and we are determined and act decisively, we can avoid a war. But if they think that we are not willing to fight, then they will bluff us and bluff us and commit aggression that will force us into a hot war, and it's essential that we go forward and be decisive if we are going to go forward and be decisive if we are going to ensure the survival of this country and ensure our liberties.

Morphew: You mentioned a moment ago that we needed to inform our own people and the rest of the world about dangers of Communism...what about the positive, plus side of the American system...are doing enough toward educated people on this?

Thurmond: I don't think we are. I think our people ought to understand our system of government better. I think they ought to study the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. They ought to study the history of America and the opportunities it offers here. Why, in this country, we own 75 percent of all the automobiles in world, 57 percent of all of the telephones. We have more conveniences of every kind, than any people on the face of the earth. Our people have the largest per capita income of any people anywhere. They have opportunities here that are unsurpassed anywhere or they're not equaled in any other country. We ought to go on the offensive and inform our people about the opportunities here as compared with the slavery and the regimentation and the tyranny that exists under Communism.

Morphew: Do you believe that a lot of the money being spent on so-called foreign aid that the recipients of this aid know where it's coming from, do they know that it's coming from citizens of a free enterprise system?

Thurmond: I do not believe they do. For instance, some years ago, I understand that we sent wheat to Poland and the Polish people never knew that it came from our country. They thought it came from the Communist government in Poland. I think that we must

take every step we can to avoid giving away so much money to foreign nations. They don't have respect for us. They take us for suckers, and we are suckers when we do it because most of it is going down a rat hole. Now, there's some foreign aid, such as some military aid or some health or providing engineers or things of that kind, technical assistance, that might be of value. But most of the foreign aid has been largely un-useful to promoting the goals of this country.

Morphew: What about maintaining this country's strength? What needs to be done?

Thurmond: I think we've got to maintain the strongest military establishment on the face of the earth. The only language the Communists know is force, is power. If we have the power and they know we have the power, they will respect us more. We have got to go forward and develop to a great extent our missile system. We've got to maintain the strategic air command, which is a great deterrent power, at its fullest. We ought to go forward with Nike Zeus, which is an anti-missile missile and the only anti-missile missile the free world has. We should develop it without delay. I hope this administration will not put this off any longer. Why, the cost of developing this is great. I understand. But if we save one city, it would pay the cost of it, and think of the millions of lives that might be saved if this Nike Zeus program is promoted and put into effect soon.

Morphew: You mentioned the fact that military preparedness is quite expensive....what will this do the American economic system? Will it have an adverse effect on our economy?

Thurmond: Well, it takes a lot of money to operate this military establishment. I believe this year the budget for the military is 62 or 63 million or billion dollars. And I realize that that's the biggest chunk of our entire budget but it means our very survival and for that reason, we should cut out some of our welfare programs. We should eliminate the expenditures except those that are essential. We should eliminate all waste in government, and we should quit going into new programs, in order that we will have the money and the funds with which to provide a strong national defense which means the very survival of our nation.

Morphew: What should be done about America's economic future?

Thurmond: Well, as I said, I think it's important that we maintain a strong economy. There's no question in my mind that this is essential. We can break down from within economically, and Khrushchev had rather take us over by causing us to spend ourselves to death than to have to go to war. He'd rather take us over internally, too, by, through subversion and infiltration, if he can, without going to war. All the countries have fallen by the wayside. Toynbee, the great historian, said that nineteen out of the twenty-one great civilizations of the past have gone down and fell from within. In other words, they were not taken over by enemies from without. And we must be on guard against internal subversion and infiltration. That's the way, as I mentioned, that Czechoslovakia was taken over. It was taken over from within. China was taken over from within, and many other countries. But some of these socialists don't seem to understand that. Some of our

leaders don't seem to understand that. The only thing they seem to fear is just the Communist aggression. Communist aggression is not sufficient. We must be on guard against this total threat, the threat from without, the threat from within. It's a total enemy, a political enemy, a diplomatic enemy. It's an economic enemy, it's a global enemy, it's a diplomatic enemy, and we must be prepared to fight this war on all fronts.

Morphew: Turning to a moral question...do you believe that too many times in recent years, we have allowed policies to be set by those who believe in negotiation or in compromise and have overlooked the simple matter of right and wrong?

Thurmond: Well, I certainly do. I think we have got to rededicate ourselves to a moral and spiritual regeneration. As I said, this is fundamentally a fight between those who believe in God, on one side, and those who believe in atheism on the other side. And therefore, the Communists believe in materialism. They think that man should be worshipped, if anything. They don't believe in worshipping God. And we must rededicate ourselves to God, because after all, if God is on our side, and if we use our judgment and work and exert the proper efforts to protect this country, we can survive.

Morphew: And that is your ten-point positive program for American victory?

Thurmond: That is right. These are the points I think are essential to save this country. I hope the administration and our leaders will get busy and help to put these into effect.

Morphew: Many of them call for things that individuals can do for themselves without anyone in the government doing them for them?

Thurmond: That is right. I think individuals should do all that they can for themselves without calling upon government. I think it's the duty of the citizens to support the government and not the duty of the government to support the citizens. Every dollar we spend here in Washington comes out of somebody's pocket and there are not enough rich people and a lot of people are deceived by that. They think the rich people pay these programs. They do not. It comes out of the masses of the people. Some people think that money from Washington is just like getting manna from heaven. And it's altogether a mistaken idea. That money has to first come from the citizens on to Washington and then be sent back.