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## CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: SOUTHERN MANIFESTO



*Kentucky Historical Society collections*

Unlike those of other Southern states, the Kentucky delegation, including Democratic Sen. Earle Clements, shown here, refused to sign the Southern Manifesto.

The Southern Manifesto was written by Southern members of the federal House and Senate in opposition to the *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision.

Drafted in February and March 1956, the manifesto claimed the *Brown* decision was “a clear abuse of judicial power” and that it infringed on the rights of parents to make decisions about their children’s lives.

Strom Thurmond and other leading Southern Democrats argued that increased integration would tear apart the moral fabric of the South and that the Supreme Court had infringed on the rights of the states established by the 10th Amendment. The Southern Manifesto was signed by 99 members of the House and Senate (97 Democrats and two Republicans).

*The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at [khscatalog.kyvl.org](http://khscatalog.kyvl.org)*

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