

**News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)**  
**Assistant to the Democratic Leader**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget**  
**House of Representatives, Washington, DC**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2002 – For Immediate Release**  
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**Statement by Rep. Spratt on Senator Lott**

“I agree with what President Bush said: Any suggestion that our segregated past was positive is not only wrong but offensive.

“I attended Senator Thurmond’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. His staff included a clip from the Dixiecrat race in their video, and Thad Strom talked at length about Senator Thurmond, but no one made the pitch that Senator Lott made, and there was no call for Trent Lott to do so. When Senator Lott said what he said, I turned to a young staffer and said, ‘I can’t believe he said that.’

“We in the south should be the most thankful that the days of segregation are over at long last, and of all people, the Republican leader in the Senate, coming from Mississippi, should understand why.

“As for Senator’s Lott’s election as majority leader, that’s a decision for Republican senators to make. What’s happened is that this comment from Trent Lott has caused people to look back at his comments and votes, and find other similar actions. I think he is at real risk of being removed as majority leader.”

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