Dear Brother Juniors:

Your State Councilor has had the privilege and pleasure of attending a number of Junior Order meetings during the past month. On June 24th he attended the 23rd anniversary of Richland Council No. 192 in Columbia. Five of the original charter members of this Council are still living and three of them were present on this occasion. Brother R. A. Feagan, County Auditor of Richland County and Councilor of this Council, presided at the meeting in an efficient and dignified manner. There was a nice crowd present and much enthusiasm was exhibited at the meeting. On June 28th he attended the institution of a Council at Prosperity. Thirty-four men joined as charter members of this Council and all of them were present on the night of the installation. This Council is composed of a fine bunch of men and we predict that it will be one of the outstanding Councils in the State in a few years. On July 1st he attended the annual celebration and installation of officers of Batesburg Council at Batesburg. This Council has a bunch of wide-awake officers and it has practically trebled its membership during its first year of existence. Brother Lindsey Hall, the Councilor, and his corps of enthusiastic and efficient officers deserve much commendation for the splendid work this Council has done. On July 19th your State Councilor attended a District meeting of District No. 14 at Concrete schoolhouse in the upper edge of Anderson County near the Greenville County line. Brother C. D. Burgess, District Deputy, had arranged a nice program and, although it rained all day, there was a good crowd present at the District meeting that night.

Congress is still in session and a number of Immigration Bills are being considered by it yet. In the last issue of our magazine your State Councilor urged every member of the Junior Order to write his Congressman and our United States Senators and urge them to oppose any Bill that will lower the caps of immigration. The unemployment situation in this country today would be greatly
eliminated if we did not have the 16,500,000 foreign born people here. Of the above number 7,500,000 have not thought enough of America and its flag to become naturalized and evidently here just for selfish purposes and private gain and care nothing about becoming American citizens. To have such a large number of aliens in this country is astonishing, but when we learn that 3,500,000 of them entered this country illegally and in violation of law, it is startling. This group of three and one-half million people who entered illegally could and should be deported, and the Junior Order feels that this could be done without working any undue hardship on them or their families.

Brother Wilmeth, our National Secretary, in speaking against the Kerr Bill some time back clearly expressed the attitude of the Junior Order when he said, "When it comes to the matter of determining who shall suffer—the American citizen out of a job or the alien who has a job—the Junior Order feels that as between the two it is the alien who should suffer. When he entered this country unlawfully, he knew he was violating our laws and subjecting himself to punishment. The American people are not responsible for the suffering of an illegally entered alien, and there is no reason why our people should suffer, in order to keep him from paying the price of his own misconduct". Your State Councilor agrees entirely with Brother Wilmeth's statement and wish that the members of Congress felt this way about the aliens who entered this country illegally and are holding positions and jobs that would be held by our own American people and denying our people from securing employment. Brother Lewis Gault, who is the Mayor of the City of Union and a prominent member of our Order, wrote a letter to Congressman McSwain in regard to Immigration Bills pending before Congress, a copy of which was published in the last issue of our magazine. I hope every member of our Order read that letter by Brother Gault as it contained the sentiments of a true Junior.
During the next month, September, most of the schools throughout South Carolina will open their doors for the 1935-36 school session. I wish to take this opportunity to urge the members of the Junior Order to take an active interest in seeing that the boys and girls of school age begin school promptly when it opens, and encourage them to attend school regularly, and also encourage their parents to keep the children in school. One of the great Principles for which the Junior Order stands is support of the public school system and, in my opinion, one of the greatest steps we can take at present to make our public schools more efficient is to encourage regular attendance by the pupils. The report of the State Superintendent of Education for the last school session shows that about twenty-two (22%) per cent of the pupils enrolled in school were absent every day. This means that almost one out of every four desks was vacant every day. The State and the Counties are providing teachers, buildings, equipment, etc., and a great many of the children of school age are not taking advantage of their opportunities. Unless a child attends school regularly, it is impossible for him to do efficient work and compete with those who are regular in attendance; and, according to the attendance figures, the public is receiving only about seventy-eight cents worth of education for every dollar it spends on the schools. I believe this, in a large measure, is responsible for the high per cent of failures by the school children in this State. The figures from the State Department of Education show that about thirty (30%) per cent of the school children failed in their grades last year. It seems that poor attendance and failures run hand in hand, and I believe that if the attendance had been better, we would not have had the high per cent of failures. This condition should be remedied. It can be remedied if the people in a community take an interest in the matter and resolve that the children of school age shall attend school regularly. There is no work more important than the work of our schools in training
young people for future citizenship. Some time ago I read a beautiful little poem entitled "Building a Temple", which shows the importance of training the youth and which I think will do every member of our Order good to read. It is as follows:

"A builder builded a temple
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty
'It never shall decay,
Great is thy skill, O builder;
Thy fame shall endure for aye'.

A teacher builded a temple,
With living and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts,
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the teacher builded,
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust,
But the temple the teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Is a child's immortal soul".

With best wishes to the members of our Order,

Fraternally yours,

J. STROM THURMOND
State Counselor.