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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBIA

April 26th, 1947

Major General Philip B. Fleming
General Chairman
The President's Highway Safety Conference
7009 Federal Works Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear General Fleming:

I take great pleasure in forwarding herewith my report on highway safety progress in the State of South Carolina during the past year. This report is for presentation to the Action Program meeting of the President's Highway Safety Conference convening in Washington in June.

The South Carolina State Highway Safety Conference held in July, 1946, as an outgrowth of the President's Highway Safety Conference held last year, pointed up the deficiencies in our traffic accident prevention program.

Our 1946 mileage death rate of 16.6 representing 650 traffic deaths has for the past several months shown a definite trend downward. I am sure that this improved showing, representing accidents prevented and lives saved, is due in large measure to an aroused interest on the part of our people who demonstrated a deep concern over this tremendous social problem at our Conference.

It is significant to note that as a result of this Conference the initiative for a traffic action program stems directly from the people themselves as well as from our officials charged with the responsibility of providing safe transportation over the streets and highways of our State.

We are sincerely encouraged over the recent trend toward statewide adherence to those recommendations of the Action Program. I mention specifically the adoption of the model traffic ordinance on the part of many of our towns and cities ; pending legislation that will tend to strengthen statutes controlling safe vehicle operation ; technical training and augmentation of our enforcement personnel which included the recent addition of fifty-one officers to our State Highway Patrol ; the expressed desire on the

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part of our educators for an opportunity to participate more fully in the program ; a vastly increased activity in the improvement of traffic facilities throughout our highway planning program ; and finally, the forthright stand taken by our newspapers, radio net - works, theaters and civic groups in the dissemination of information and the development of public education and support.

I feel strongly confident that in due time our State will accomplish the objectives set forth in the Action Program.

You may count on the sovereign State of South Carolina for full cooperation.

With best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

J. Strom Thurmond
Governor of South Carolina.