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South Carolina's Seaports

Strom Thurmond

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South Carolina is blessed with three magnificent seaports, Charleston, Georgetown and Beaufort, and the development of each of these fine harbors as gateways to the world for the products of our industries and our farmers will greatly benefit the economy of our State.

The Federal Government has just let the contract for extensive dredging to deepen and improve Georgetown harbor, and when this work has been completed Georgetown should resume its pre-war position as a regular port of call for steamship service.

At Beaufort plans have been laid before the United States Engineers for the development of Port Royal harbor and its entrance, and it is expected that once again this fine port, with its excellent rail and highway connections, will perform its proper maritime functions for a large part of the State as it did years ago.

Charleston was used by the War Department as a major port of embarkation during the war, and only recently the fine port terminal facilities were released from war service by the President of the United States in a White House ceremony attended by South Carolina state officials. Since then, the State has taken over these facilities to operate them for the benefit of the people of the State as a whole, and for the benefit of the industry, commerce and agriculture of every section of the State. The City of Charleston has just conveyed to the State its extensive investment in port facilities and terminal railroads in and around the port of Charleston, and the State of South Carolina is now in control of more than $25,000,000 in waterfront facilities at this historic world port.

Within the past month, regular steamship service and sailings have been scheduled to and from Charleston to South Africa, West Africa, the Philippines, Shanghai and Hong Kong, and textile exports as well as other products of our state economy are once again moving through a South Carolina port to
the markets of the world. As a State and as a people, we shall not forget the steamship lines and the shippers who have led the way in reviving the use of our great world port and returning it to the position which it should enjoy as a gateway in foreign commerce.

The economic progress of South Carolina will depend in large measure on our success in bringing about business and industrial establishment, development and expansion in our State.

Since we are a seaboard State with magnificent harbors, the development of our waterports is one of the most effective single measures which we, as a State, can take to place our present and future industries in a position to reach the markets of the nation and of the world on a competitive basis with those in other sections.

I urge all business concerns, importers, exporters, bankers, manufacturers, farmers, and South Carolinians of every walk of life to back up our port development program, and to utilize to the fullest extent the steamship services which have already been and are now being established at our ports, for they will thereby make a valuable and substantial contribution to our efforts to raise the standard of living of our people as a whole and to increase our economic level as a State.