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Statement from J. Strom Thurmond for South Carolina Education News

Strom Thurmond

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Improved education is the hope for a better South Carolina. Our state, which now has the greatest opportunity of increased prosperity in its existence, cannot grow unless it raises its standards of education for all of our people and unless it helps these people take advantage of opportunities for study and for improving their station in life.

I am particularly interested in vocational education. Stress should be placed upon vocational studies in our secondary schools because so many high school graduates do not have the means to attend college. One of the most important functions of education should be the acquisition of a skill. This skill may be a thorough foundation in English and History for those who want to write; or mathematics for those who want to become scientists; or manual training for those boys whose post-school work will be in the building trades. But whatever that skill happens to be, it is the duty of education leaders and governmental officials to see that our students are properly trained in that skill so that upon graduation the students will really be proficient in their chosen fields.

There is no degree of honorableness among skills. It is just as honorable to be a skilled carpenter as a skilled professor; it is far better to be a good mechanic than an unworthy professional man.

Just as our curriculum must be improved, our teaching standards must be of the highest. It is axiomatic that soundly trained students will become worthy citizens. Our teachers must at all times keep this fact in mind and must not let anything interfere with their determination to give their best to their pupils.
I have always been interested in education. One of the principal aims of my administration will be to assist the teachers and students of South Carolina achieve their rightful place in a higher and improving educational system. I will work for the betterment of their conditions and for the proper coordination of our educational system.

It is important, I believe, that we have our state-supported colleges arrange their courses so as to fit into the needs of high school graduates and it is equally important for consideration to be given to the expansion of vocational schools to assist those students who do not have the opportunity of attending college.

I am sure that I, as governor, and our new legislature will work closely together for the improvement of education in South Carolina. If we are able to bring about these improvements, the future of our state will be brighter; our economic levels will be increased and our enjoyment of life will be enhanced.

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