

ADDRESS OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S HIGHWAY SAFETY CONFERENCE, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM, WASHINGTON, D.C. THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1947, 2:15 P.M.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

The South Carolina Highway Safety Conference, held last July as a follow-up on the President's Conference, threw into sharp focus the deficiencies of our past efforts in accident prevention. We are endeavoring to remedy these faults and weaknesses with every resource at our command -- through stronger laws, better roads, and wider education. But what augurs most for the success of our program is not only that it follows the national blueprint but the fact that the desire to accomplish it stems from the rank and file of our State. In former days, interest in traffic safety centered solely in the highway department. Today there is a spontaneous demand for safety activities from the citizens themselves.

Nothing could be more inspiring to the leadership in the State safety movement than the forthright stand taken by our South Carolina newspapers, radio networks, theaters, civic and business groups, women's clubs and other organizations for the development of public support on the broadest possible scale.

With such backing it is not surprising that we have made considerable progress in the various areas of safety. The past year has seen the adoption of the Model Municipal Ordinance by many of our cities. The General Assembly, in its session recently adjourned, passed legislation strengthening the

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This is the original manuscript from which this address was delivered.  
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Governor

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existing statute on drunken driving, one of the principal provisions of the legislation being the compulsory reporting of drunken driving violations. A financial responsibility bill was introduced but was carried over to the next session.

Technical training of enforcement personnel has been expanded, and the State Highway Patrol enlarged by 51 officers. The Patrol is playing a leading part in safety education work.

There has been large scale resumption of highway maintenance operations. Over 600 miles of road were resurfaced last year, and at least an equal amount will be completed in 1947. We have stepped up our program of widening pavements and the erection of signs and signals.

The high school curriculum has been extended by a year, which will provide time for more courses in safety and for driver education and training. There will be a total of at least 46 secondary schools offering driver instruction by fall.

These are but a few highlights in South Carolina's program, which already shows signs of reversing the high accident trend in our state. We know we are on the right road. We intend to stay on it.