

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF JAMES W.
CRAIN, OF GREENVILLE, TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TAX
COMMISSION, JANUARY 30, 1948.

Because of certain publicity regarding my appointment of James W. Crain, of Greenville, to succeed Dr. W. G. Query on the State Tax Commission, I desire to make clear my position in this matter.

Dr. Query has served his State long and well and deserves the heartfelt thanks of every citizen.

Mr. Crain is a fine, capable, and honorable gentleman and I feel the State is fortunate to secure his services.

Last spring I received a letter from Dr. Query, dated May 8, 1947, notifying me that he expected to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires on February 1, 1948, but that he would "not seek or accept reappointment as a member of the South Carolina Tax Commission."

The State Tax Commission is one of South Carolina's most important Departments, and upon being informed of Dr. Query's intention to retire at the end of his term on February 1, 1948, I set about looking for a competent successor. I offered the position to Mr. Crain and he accepted. His name has been sent to the Senate for confirmation.

The State Retirement Board informs me that Dr. Query can retire on an annual income of approximately \$2540. The Board further informs me that his serving another year would add only about \$4 a month to his retirement income.

I feel it proper that Mr. Crain assume his duties with the Tax Commission at the beginning of the term for which he has been appointed. It would be unfair to Mr. Crain to deprive him of one year of the legal term.

For the best interest of the State and to promote efficiency in the work of the Tax Commission, this change in personnel should not be delayed but made at the beginning of the new term. The Tax Commissioners can then select their new Chairman and proceed with their work without interruption.