
From meager beginnings, public school education has risen to become one of the biggest businesses of the States. During 1946, the forty-eight States of the Nation spent more than $1,260,000,000 in education.

According to a recent survey, covering the entire United States, about 17,600,000 children attend elementary school, 6,567,000 attend secondary school, and 2,338,000 go to higher institutions of some type.

The widespread education of our people has been one of the decisive factors in making America great. Education gives us the ability to change with changing times. Never before in human history was it more necessary to be ready for change than now. The needs of the time call for increased attention to education. South Carolina, I am happy to say, has risen nobly to this challenge.

The 1947 Legislature passed the most progressive and constructive educational legislation in the history of South Carolina. It authorized a badly needed survey of the public schools of the State. It passed legislation establishing permanently a State-supported nine months school term. It set up the best schedule for teachers' salaries that has ever been provided. It reorganized the State Department of Education to promote efficiency. It established a State system of Area Trade Schools. It authorized the State to pay the salaries of County Superintendents of Education. It augmented appropriations for educational services such as vocational education, Negro education, adult education, and transportation of school pupils. It passed an Institution Building Act which
enabled the State to make capital improvements of far-reaching importance at
State institutions of higher learning, including the construction of a teaching
hospital for the Medical College of South Carolina.

In the hands of you, the teachers of our State, lies the future
of South Carolina. You will shape the minds of boys and girls who will become the
citizens of tomorrow. Your responsibility is great. Your opportunity is even
greater.

As a former high school teacher myself, I commend you on your
choice of a profession. It gives satisfaction which cannot be over-emphasized.
Teaching is indeed a noble calling. Always remember that so long as I am Governor,
education will have a staunch supporter on Arsenal Hill.