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"[Increasing Attention to the Importance of Education and Teachers.]

Strom Thurmond

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ST T. STRUM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
PREPARED FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION
NEWS, FEBRUARY 4, 1948.

From meager beginnings, public school education has risen to be-
come one of the biggest businesses of the States. During 1946, the forty-eight
States of the Nation spent more than $1,260,000,000 on 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 de-
cisive 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 bad-
ly needed survey of the public schools of the State. It passed legislation es-
ablishing 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

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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.