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The Appointment of Major James Hunter as State Director of the Selective Service System for South Carolina.

Strom Thurmond

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Governor J. Strom Thurmond announced Saturday that he has recommended the appointment of Major James Hunter, of Anderson, as State Director of the newly-authorized South Carolina Selective Service System.

The Governor's action followed the enactment of the Selective Service Act of 1948, which was signed by the President on June 24, to bring into being the nation's first peace-time draft act.

Major Hunter will serve as executive head of an organization which will include a Selective Service board in each of South Carolina's 46 counties, and which will supervise the induction of young men aged 19 to 26 for 21 months of service in the armed forces of the nation.

Governor Thurmond described Major Hunter's nomination as one which will insure a fair and equitable administration of the Selective Service law.

"Major Hunter is a man of outstanding character and ability," the Governor said, "and because of his experience he is eminently qualified to direct the Selective Service System. I sincerely believe that we are fortunate in securing the services of a veteran of both World War I and World War II for this important position. Major Hunter's record as a member of the armed forces and as a public administrator have won him recognition throughout the State."

Now serving as County Service Officer for Anderson County, Major Hunter has held that position since October, 1945, when he was released from active duty with the Army Air Forces.

At the outbreak of World War II, Major Hunter was County Supervisor for Anderson County, a position he held from 1939 until June, 1942. Entering the Air Forces as a 1st Lieutenant,
he rose to the rank of Major, being engaged principally in administrative work with the Army until his discharge October 1, 1945.

Major Hunter was born and reared in Pendleton, South Carolina. He was graduated from the public schools there, and entered Clemson College. In 1917 during his junior year at Clemson, he volunteered for the Marine Corps, and served in that branch of the service for 18 months, including a year of service overseas. He married Miss Hilda Ferne.

The new Selective Service Director is the son of the late M. M. Hunter and Pauline Gilliard Hunter, of Pendleton. He has served as Mayor of that city, and is a member of the Lions Club, the Presbyterian Church, the Masonic Order, and is Adjutant of Legion Post No. 14, Anderson, as well as the 40 & 8. He has served with the National Guard, before and after World War II.

Governor Thurmond said the new Director will be in complete charge of the administration of Selective Service in the State, and that all matters pertaining to the draft will be left entirely to him and his boards.

"Major Hunter is determined to make certain that the management of the draft shall be business-like, democratic, and based entirely on the principle of equal treatment for all," the Governor declared.