

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, TO STUDENTS OF THE OPPORTUNITY
SCHOOL OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GIVING FACTS CONCERN-
ING HIS LIFE, JULY 19, 1948.

Soon after I left Clemson I knew that my love for our great State must come first in my life. Therefore, I engaged in the study of law, working at night while teaching school during the day. At the time of being admitted to the bar, I had gained some experience in public administration as County Superintendent of Education for Edgefield County. In 1933 I became State Senator from my County, and since that time my public career has included service in all three branches of our government, the legislative, the judicial, and the executive. I have also been privileged to fight for my country overseas.

Thus I have been lucky enough to serve my State in all its branches, and in each case I have found new happiness and interest by finding new ways to serve South Carolina. My interests in the State are growing every day, for it is a privilege to be your Governor.

We have a great State, the greatest, I believe, in the nation. Its wonderful people, its abundant natural wealth, its growing industry and agriculture, and its splendid heritage of fine tradition all combine to make it the finest place on earth in which to work and live. The greatest joy that can come to a citizen is pride in his State and love for its people and its traditions. We can only know that joy when we serve our State in the best way we know how.

In all my efforts in behalf of South Carolina, the field of education has always been uppermost in my mind. That is why I am proud of the Opportunity School for the splendid work it is doing in helping our people to advance themselves and to make a new and happier way of life.