MY FRIENDS OF THE PIEDMONT:

It is with sincere regret that I will be unable to attend the Interstate Piedmont Fair this year. As many of you will recall, I attended your Fair last year and was greatly impressed.

It was my intention to be back again with you this year but a speaking engagement in Kentucky makes it necessary for me to talk to you by remote radio facilities.

Because I was so deeply impressed with what I saw at the Piedmont Interstate Fair last year, I want to take this opportunity as Governor of South Carolina to commend the people of Spartanburg, Union, Laurens and Cherokee Counties in our State, and Rutherfordton and Polk in North Carolina, for this wonderful enterprise in promoting better living in the Piedmont.

Many friends who are familiar with what the Piedmont Interstate Fair will present this year have convinced me that the progress during the last 12 months has been remarkable. I want to congratulate Paul Black, Tom Moore Craig, Howard McCravy, T.K. Hudgens, Dick Floyd, George DePass, Ed Johnson, Charlie Johnson, Jim Zimmerman, Ray Prince, all of Spartanburg County; W. W. Almon of Union, D. L. Long of Laurens, James F. Littlejohn of Cherokee, T. C. Calhoun of Rutherfordton, and Homer Durham of Polk, for their fine work as officers.
and directors of the Piedmont Interstate Fair.

This Fair, as most of you know, is an eleemosynary institution, with 240 business men and women in the 6 counties providing the capital to make this educational enterprise possible.

What your Fair is doing in promoting better agriculture, in stimulating livestock production by improved breeding, and in pointing the way to diversified farming for better living at home, is self-evident to those who have seen the many outstanding exhibits on display at the Fair grounds at Spartanburg.

What appeals to me most is the work the Piedmont Interstate Fair is doing in encouraging the younger generation of the Piedmont in modern farming practices and livestock improvements.

Last year I was tremendously impressed by the work of the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Club, and I wish so much I could see this week the results of their activities during the past year. I sincerely believe that the greatest good which will come to the Piedmont section as a result of your Fair will be the incentive it affords to the young people who live on your farms.

The progress which has been made in the fittings and showing of cattle, hogs, poultry and the various other exhibits is stimulating and is encouraging to those of us who are striving to build a better and bigger South Carolina.

When I visited the Piedmont Interstate Fair last year one of the most impressive exhibits I saw was the one put on by the
colored people. In this campaign in which I am now engaging, I have attempted to bring about a better understanding of the South's economic problems and to show that the progress of all of our people depends on an improved economic life. And especially does this apply to our Negro citizens.

The exhibits at the Piedmont Interstate Fair of the colored people is one of the finest things I saw last year, and I understand it is better this year. It goes to show what can be done by education, and I know it will mean much to the colored people of the Piedmont.

I understand there are many new exhibits at the Fair this year, including the house of flowers, the sportsman's arcade of guns, and many others.

The commercial and business people, the Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the flower clubs, the Wildlife Association, the Cooperative Breeders' Association, the educational groups and various other organizations have all proved to me the Piedmont section is one of the greatest Fairs in the South, and I am sure it is going to be well attended this year. I wish for you fair weather and not so much rain as we had last year.

The Piedmont is one of the greatest sections of the United States, and it is but natural that you should have a great Fair. I know the people of the Piedmont are going to enjoy the Fair in Spartanburg this week, and again I want to express my regrets that I cannot be with you in person.
Congratulations and best wishes, and I shall look forward to being with you again next year.