

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
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The people of the textile industry of Spartanburg county deserve the highest commendation for the progress this county has made in the production of textile goods during the last half-century, and particularly in recent years.

A mere glance at the records will show that Spartanburg County has made almost unbelievable strides in improving and expanding the textile industry, and these gains must be attributed to the high quality of leadership of its executives and to the energy, enthusiasm, and loyalty of its employees.

It is my sincere belief that Spartanburg County, like the rest of South Carolina, is now entering upon an era of prosperity for its people which will result in a tremendously improved standard of living, in more advanced educational and civic endeavors, and in greater happiness for all. This trend is clearly shown in the evidence of gains in the textile industry as presented in these pages.

South Carolina is credited with having established the first textile mill in the United States -- at James Island in 1789. Today, the textile industry is so important to our people that it represents our greatest hope for a new era of progress and prosperity. The value of textile products produced in this State last year amounted to more than \$800,000,000 -- by far the greatest single source of income we have. And Spartanburg County accounted for a large portion of this income. The County ranks first in the value of manufactured products, producing \$243,194,000 worth in the year 1946-47.

Forty years ago South Carolina had an annual textile mill payroll of \$12,500,000. This year that much money was paid textile workers in Spartanburg County alone during the first three months of the year.

It is a pleasure to congratulate the employees and the executives of the textile industry in Spartanburg County upon the splendid, forward-looking job they are doing to build the industry.