

REMARKS OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
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There are many things of which our state can be proud. But in considering our state's past and looking forward to its future, we must not blind ourselves to certain conditions that can be improved.

Our state's tomorrow rests with the school children of today. Many of these children are not receiving the educational opportunities to which they are entitled. And until all our children are offered an adequate education, we are failing to keep faith with the future.

South Carolina is not a rich state. We have a rich heritage and a wealth of opportunity, but according to dollars and cents standards we are poor. But we are not too poor in purse and in spirit to give our children education equal to that of other states, although our sacrifice must be greater.

The problem of public school education is too great and too complicated for me to discuss in any detail, or any length. Unfortunately, few of us are really familiar with the problems.

But for those of us who would learn something of the present conditions of our schools there is an easy way. The report of the South Carolina Education Survey Committee tells clearly and completely the story of our present schools. It deals with all phases of public school education in the state, including instruction, personnel, plant facilities, special services, transportation, vocational education and financing.

This committee, composed of businessmen and educators, has made a thorough study. With the help of professional consultants and volunteer workers, it worked long and hard.

Its findings may shock some of you, who have taken it for granted that our schools and the education they offer leave nothing to be desired. The report shows deplorable conditions in some phases of education. It points out the differences in educational opportunity offered in different schools. It reveals how

outmoded legislation has wasted the tax dollar and handicapped the children.

This committee, at the direction of the general assembly, has prepared a list of recommendations that it believes will correct some of the worst conditions.

You may remember that in my inaugural address in 1947 I recommended such a study as has now been completed by the survey committee. I am proud of the members I appointed to the committee, who have done such a splendid job and given so much of their time. The state of South Carolina owes this committee a debt of gratitude, a debt that can be paid by a thorough and earnest study of its report.

It is the duty of every citizen, whether or not he has children in school, to study this report and its findings and recommendations. Not until all our citizens are familiar with the problem, can it be approached in an understanding manner. And not until they interest themselves can it be solved in a sound, progressive and democratic manner.