

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF J. ERNEST CRAIG AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. FEBRUARY 1, 1949.

Governor J. Strom Thurmond today announced the appointment of J. Ernest Craig, of Anderson, as Executive Secretary, to fill a vacancy created by the resignation last summer of Colonel W. L. Daniel, Jr.

The post has been filled temporarily by Colonel David H. Kennedy, of Williston, a close friend of Governor Thurmond's, who assisted the Governor by acting as Executive Secretary until Mr. Craig was free to assume the position.

In announcing the appointment, Governor Thurmond expressed his appreciation to Colonel Kennedy for his assistance. "I am keenly aware of the fine service he has rendered the State of South Carolina by filling this post until it could be permanently filled," the Governor said.

The new Executive Secretary is an experienced man in this type of work, having served in a similar capacity as Secretary to Congressman Butler B. Hare, of the 3rd District, during five sessions of the United States Congress, from January, 1939, to July, 1943.

An educator by profession, Mr. Craig has held positions in schools of Spartanburg, Pickens, Anderson, and Abbeville counties.

A native of Pickens, he was graduated from the Pickens grammar and high schools, and received his A.B. degree at Furman University, and his Masters degree at the University of South Carolina.

He is the son of the late E. H. Craig, of Pickens, and Mrs. E. H. Craig, now living in Greenville. Mr. Craig is married to the former Miss Marion Herron, of Starr, and they have three children.

A member of the Lions club, he has held the presidency of several clubs, and has served as President of the Anderson County and the Abbeville County Educational Associations. He is a Mason, and a member of the St. Johns Methodist Church of Anderson.

Governor Thurmond said he felt that Mr. Craig would be a "great asset to the State of South Carolina."

"I have been looking forward to Mr. Craig's joining our office staff for some time," he said, "and I am convinced he will render the State outstanding service. He is eminently qualified for the position of Executive Secretary, having a background which will be of value to our State."

The new Executive Secretary, who was introduced to the members of the press at the Governor's news conference this morning, said he is accepting the position "in an effort to render a public service to the State of South Carolina in a type of work I like."