

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE
COMMISSION'S DENIAL OF A PETITION BY THE
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC LEAGUE FOR
REOPENING OF DOCKET 28310. MARCH 18, 1949.

Governor J. Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Freight Rate Committee of the Southern Governors Conference, said today the governors have "won another point" in their effort to secure equal freight rates for the southern territory.

Governor Thurmond said Walter R. McDonald, Atlanta, President of the Southeastern Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners, has notified him that the Interstate Commerce Commission has denied a petition of the National Industrial Traffic League for the reopening of Docket 28310, a uniform freight classification ruling of the ICC.

The Governor described the Traffic League petition as "delaying tactics against the development of uniform freight rate classification."

Had the petition been successful, he said, the entire freight rate classification investigation of the Interstate Commerce Commission, under which uniformity was ordered, would have been reopened.

"This would have resulted in further delay in the long effort of the Southern Governors Conference to secure equal and uniform freight rates," Governor Thurmond said.

The petition of the National Industrial Traffic League was one of several, including others filed by Automobile Manufacturers Association and Ford Motor Company; Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.; The American Paper and Pulp Association; a large group of shippers and receivers of foodstuffs; the Shippers Conference of Greater New York; the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and the Institute of Makers of Explosives.

The petitions were opposed by attorneys of the Southern Governors Conference, and also by the Southeastern Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners.

"We are now on the way to equal freight rates for the South," Governor Thurmond said, "and we must not give up the fight until they are a reality. The matter of uniform classification is one which affects every state, and the development of equal freight rates throughout the nation will ultimately work to the benefit of every state."

Other members of the Southern Governors Conference Freight Rate Committee, recently appointed by Governor Tuck of Virginia, Conference Chairman, are: Governor James Folsom, Alabama; Governor Sid McMath, Arkansas; Governor Herman Talmadge, Georgia, and Governor Fuller Warren, Florida.