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Concerning the Interstate Commerce Commission's Denial of a Petition by the National Industrial Traffic League for Reopening of Docket 28310

Strom Thurmond

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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.