

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON PENDING STATE SENATE
CONFIRMATION OF MISS FAITH CLAYTON AS A
MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA INDUSTRIAL
COMMISSION, MAY 21, 1949.

I feel it only fair to Miss Clayton to say that there is obviously nothing personal toward her as an individual in the opposition which has delayed a vote in the Senate on confirmation of her appointment to the South Carolina Industrial Commission.

A majority of the Senate is in favor of confirmation, and I am confident that the majority will stand by their considered judgment in spite of inconvenience and delay.

Every change which, as Governor, I have proposed in relation to the Industrial Commission has met with more or less violent resistance. There are those who are determined to prevent any change of personnel calculated to improve the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Law, despite the fact that it is the working men and women of the State who will benefit most from better administration. The public must see very clearly that there are individuals, and they are not working men and women, whose interests will best be served by maintaining the status quo undisturbed.

I promised the people of the State that, as their Governor, I would do everything in my power to give South Carolina good government. I have tried to the best of my ability to carry out this promise. The law gives the Governor the power to make this appointment and unless there is something against the character or ability of the appointee, it is presumed the appointment should be confirmed.

In fairness to Miss Clayton, I think it should be said again that she is unusually well-qualified to understand the problems and interests of the working men and women of the State.

As a practical nurse in the office of her father, a physician, she acquired exact knowledge of accidents to which working people are subject. Later she spent many years dealing with their problems as an employment counsellor, and has held membership in the American Federation of Labor.

I have appointed Miss Clayton as an Industrial Commissioner both because of her knowledge of the problems of Labor, and because it is my sincere belief that the special understanding and ability of a fine woman are needed on the Industrial Commission. At least 40% of our working people are women, and in our greatest industry, textiles, the percentage is even higher. Women who seek medical benefit awards because of injuries received at their jobs should no longer be denied representation on the Commission which must pass on their claims.

Miss Clayton's record in public service has been of the highest order. She has rendered distinguished service as a school teacher, as a school trustee, and in her present occupation, that of helping working people to secure employment.