STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, URGING FULL SUPPORT OF NEW RECRUITING DRIVE OF SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD. SEPTEMBER 13, 1949.

The effort of the South Carolina National Guard to recruit 3,000 officers and men in order to reach its authorized strength should have the full support of all our citizens.

In view of recent reductions in the national military establishment, it is now of paramount importance to build up our National Guard as a security measure. The responsibility for national defense, in the final analysis, rests with the ordinary citizen, and it is through the National Guard that he can most readily carry out that responsibility.

South Carolina has long led the nation in its militia activities, and we now rank third among the states in the matter of building up the National Guard. If we are to maintain this reputation for support of the militia, we must do everything we can to assist the National Guard in its new recruiting drive.