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Address at South Carolina Wildlife Federation meeting, introducing Tennessee Governor Gordon Browning

Strom Thurmond

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The condition of our wildlife resources in South Carolina is unsatisfactory. Every true sportsman in our State knows this is true.

Some of our counties are carrying on good wildlife programs, designed to improve the situation in their own localities, but the conservation program for the State as a whole is far below standard. Steps should be taken at once to correct that condition.

That's why we are here today. I want to congratulate each and everyone of you in attendance at this meeting, because your presence here shows that you have an unselfish interest in the preservation of our wildlife resources. The South Carolina Wildlife Federation deserves a great deal of credit for the work it is doing in bringing to public attention the need for better conservation methods in this State. Our people are beginning to realize, as never before, the importance of conservation in this field.

The preservation of our wildlife resources is important, not only from the financial standpoint but also as a
means of improving the health and happiness of our people. A plentiful supply of fish and game encourages the hardy and healthful life in the open. Those who live close to nature and enjoy the bounties of God-given sunshine and fresh air are healthier people -- mentally, physically, and spiritually.

For this reason, I favor any step which will improve and preserve our wildlife. Right here and now I want to reaffirm my position in support of the bill which would create a non-political fish and game commission. Let us pull together and see that this bill is passed.

It is a privilege for me to welcome as our guest speaker the distinguished Governor of one of our great neighboring States. He is a man with an outstanding record of service to his State and his country. He represented his district in the United States House of Representatives for six terms, and has been elected Governor of his State twice, in 1936 and again in 1948. He is a veteran of both World Wars, having been a Captain in World War I and a Lieutenant Colonel in World War II. As a soldier, he received many decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Order of the British Empire and the Order of the Crown of Belgium. At the close of World War II he was in charge of Military Government in Belgium.
Our speaker today is a man who has always been a leader in wildlife conservation. He is an ardent hunter and fisherman himself, and knows the problem at first hand. He has long been an advocate of good conservation practices and today we are to share the results of his study and observations in this field.

It is a great personal pleasure to me to present to you now my good friend, Governor Gordon Browning, of Tennessee.