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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF  
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Any review of the industrial and agricultural progress made in South Carolina in 1949 and a discussion of the outlook for 1950 must focus attention upon the attitudes and aptitudes of the capable citizens of our State.

It has been through their efforts and because of their determination that our progress must be sound, that the State has managed to move forward in 1949 with the same impetus that we had in the other post-war years. The people of South Carolina demand good, sound government. They demand fairness in all their attitudes toward industry and business -- and they expect and receive fair treatment from management.

South Carolina's inducements to industry are such that the State's post-war development has been nothing less than phenomenal, particularly in the last few years. In 1948, for instance, a total of \$230,000,000 in new industries or expansions either began operation, started construction, or were announced for construction in the State. While exact estimates for 1949 are not yet available, industrial expansion continued at peak levels during the year.

The State Research, Planning and Development Board, of which L. W. Bishop is director, has the pleasant and satisfying job of working with new and existing industrial enterprises. This board, created by the legislature in 1945, has won the respect and admiration from residents of South Carolina and from hundreds of industrial concerns and executives outside the State. It approaches its work in a purely scientific fashion and

and its selling points about South Carolina are entirely factual. This board will be delighted to provide its services for collection of information and data to any legitimate industrial organization.

Since South Carolina is still primarily an agricultural State, the tremendous industrial progress recently has helped balance its economy but it has not absorbed all of the splendid locations available to other industries which might be seeking site for new plants. In every one of our 46 counties ideal sites are available for industry.

In fact, the spread of manufacturing plants into agricultural counties and to village areas adjacent to our cities has been an outstanding development recently. Many of our new enterprises have deliberately purchased large tracts of land for their manufacturing operations and have spend money and energy in maintaining the natural beauty of the countryside.

The determination of our people to adapt themselves to industrial working conditions has been demonstrated many times. Every manufacturer to locate in our state, as far as I know, has been impressed with the skills and abilities of our citizens. They can adapt themselves quickly to new operations and they enter into their new jobs without prejudiced conceptions of the work.

South Carolina has increased its status as the busiest textile state in the nation and there is every indication that the State's ratio of total spinning hours and other indices of activity will continue to rise.

The synthetic fibre industry is finding South Carolina a happy hunting ground. Management has learned that our textile employes can easily adapt themselves to new fibers or to new weaving methods. For example, production has started at the Celanese corporation's huge plant at Rock Hill and duPont is rushing to complete its Orlon plant at Camden.

The wool industry is following in the paths previously used to advantage by cotton and synthetics. Some existing wool and worsted plants have expanded and new ones have been established.

The emphasis, industrially, remains on textiles in South Carolina but there have been expanded operations in other fields. Almost every type of industry can find in South Carolina a location suitable for a profitable operation.

We are sure that 1950 and other future years will bring to the State continued expansion. The opportunities are here. A few examples come to mind quickly. The machine tool industry and manufacturers of heavy goods would find in South Carolina splendid locations, capable employes and a cooperative citizenry. I think that these industries would do well to include the State in their expansion plans.

Recent experiments have demonstrated the value of South Carolina clays, shales and other deposits in the ceramics field. While there is some production presently in this line, the opportunities for additional manufacturing are almost unlimited.

I am sure that these -- and many other industrial groups -- will discover the value of locating here just as the garment industry discovered those values. Only a few years ago, there were only eight garment plants in the State. Today there are more than 100, some of them small but many others extensive. Leaders in that competitive industry learned that they could operate profitably, pleasantly and satisfactorily in our State. Their discoveries surely will be grasped by other groups which may be far different in their operations.

In agriculture, 1949 was not outstanding in South Carolina. Unfavorable weather and a recurrence of the boll weevil combined to reduce the cotton crop to one of the smallest on record. Cotton, however great its present importance, has been declining in its ratio to the total of all of our crops and there is some indication that that decline will continue.

Great progress is being made in tobacco, in pastures, in peaches, apples and in grains. Just recently I attended a meeting which signalized the end of the first scientific tobacco contest ever conducted by a group of farmers in connection with our extension service. The prize winners demonstrated clearly that our plant pathologists have found a money-maker in the new broad-leaf type for flue-cured tobacco. I am proud to recall that much of the breeding experiments leading to the development of this type of tobacco was done at the Coker's Pedigreed Seed farms at Hartsville in our State.

Livestock production continues to increase. Our mild climate enables farmers to build permanent pastures which permit grazing twelve months in the year. More and more farmers are planting oats and wheat and rye. Soybeans and other crops to improve the soils are taking their rightful place on our farms.

South Carolina has no State debt except that constituted by highway bonds which are self-liquidating and the Aa financial rating given the state is a tribute to the sound business principles on which the State government is operated.

There is nothing ahead that does not indicate an increasingly prosperous era for South Carolina. Those of us in government know that the people will continue to demand sound government and fair treatment to all. And we in government are determined to see that these qualities be maintained.