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On Interstate Commerce Commission's order about freight rates

Strom Thurmond

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Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, recently elected Chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference, today hailed an order of the Interstate Commerce Commission as "an effective elimination of the last major obstacle to freight rate equality." Governor Thurmond said the Commission's order sets in motion the machinery to effectuate a uniform classification of freight for the entire nation and to establish a scale of uniform class rates between all points east of the Rockies.

The equalization of freight rates and the removal of the South's 39% handicap in competing with Northern shippers has been the primary objective of the Governors' Conference for several years. Thurmond said that the latest attempt to thwart the efforts of the Governors came from the Western railroads in the form of a petition asking that the entire case begun in 1939 be reopened. Northern shippers supported the petition, and it was opposed by manufacturers in the South and West, as well as by the Governors. Thurmond said the Commission's order was "an effective and satisfactory answer to the petition and a complete vindication of the unselfish efforts of the South."