STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, URGING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. DECEMBER 15, 1949.

Governor J. Strom Thurmond today called upon the people of South Carolina to join the National Safety Council and 160 other cooperating organizations in their effort to make this year's Christmas and New Year celebration a safe holiday.

"The nationwide campaign to hold down holiday accidents," Governor Thurmond said, "charts a good course for all of us to follow. It is one on accepting individual responsibility for avoiding accident situations which might bring death or injury.

"Safety -- just like freedom -- is everybody's job," he said. "That is the American way of doing things. Each person should realize that an accident can happen to him, and refuse to take the chance that may be its cause. The extra holiday hazards should be met with extra caution, common sense, and courtesy."

Governor Thurmond pointed out that accidents are always on the increase during holiday periods. During the last two weeks of December last year, he said, there were 481 automobile accidents in South Carolina, resulting in 31 deaths and 234 injuries. Over the Christmas week-end alone, there were 14 deaths and 83 injuries from traffic accidents.

"This loss can be reduced this year," Governor Thurmond declared, "if drivers and pedestrians alike exercise special care during the Christmas season."