

STATEMENT BY HONORABLE J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ANNOUNCING THAT "WAR PRISONERS  
AND INTERNEES CAN FILE BENEFIT CLAIMS BEGINNING  
JANUARY 3".

(Not to be released before  
PM, January 2, 1950)

Governor J. Strom Thurmond announced today that residents of South Carolina who were prisoners of war or civilian internees at any time during World War II can secure official claims forms from The State Service Bureau, Columbia, S. C., and all its County Service Offices throughout the State for benefits to which they may be entitled under the Federal War Claims Act of 1948.

Claims forms are ready for distribution on and after January 3. All claims must be filed with the War Claims Commission before March 1, 1951. Only claims filed on the official War Claims Commission forms can be considered for benefit payments.

Persons eligible for benefits under the War Claims Act include military personnel who were prisoners of war in any theatre in World War II and certain American civilians who were interned by the Japanese in the Philippines, Midway, Guam, Wake Island or any Territory or Possession of the United States attacked or invaded by the Japanese on or after December 7, 1941. Survivors may be eligible for the benefit, in case of the death of a prisoner of war or civilian internee.

Former prisoners of war may receive \$1 for each day of imprisonment on which the enemy failed to provide adequate food. Under certain conditions, civilian internees may be entitled to \$60 for each month of their internment.

The State Service Bureau was designated by Governor Thurmond to assist residents of South Carolina to secure their War Claims forms

as soon as possible since payments will be made on a first-come-first-serve basis by the War Claims Commission in Washington.

Daniel F. Cleary, Chairman of the War Claims Commission, has advised that maximum fees for attorneys or agents assisting claimants have been determined by the Commission. A claimant does not need to have an attorney or agent but should he wish to do so the fee for preparation and filing of applications for living war prisoners or internees cannot exceed 1 percent of the amount awarded. For survivors of deceased prisoners of war the fee cannot exceed 2 percent of the amount awarded.

Higher fees not to exceed 10 percent of the amount awarded have been authorized by the Commission in cases requiring additional written or oral testimony or appeal.