3-10-1950

Statement for 32nd Annual Convention of the Palmetto State Teachers Association program

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Statement for 32nd Annual Convention of the Palmetto State Teachers Association program" (1950). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 844.
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It is a pleasure to me to extend greetings and best wishes, on behalf of the State of South Carolina, to the members of the Palmetto State Teachers Association, on the occasion of your 32nd Annual Convention.

Nothing in public life has given me greater satisfaction than my long association with education in our State. For 10 years I was a school teacher and County Superintendent of Education. In the State Senate, I sponsored legislation for higher salaries for teachers, longer school terms, and was Chairman of the Senate Committee that wrote the school attendance law.

As Governor, I recommended and the Legislature passed the best teacher-pay schedule in the history of the State, the State School Survey, the Area Trade School provision, and many other forward-looking education acts. I have recommended an increase in teacher salaries, an expanded in-service teacher training program, restoration of sick leave for teachers, loan scholarships for teachers, State aid for school buildings, better organization of school districts, an equitable formula for distribution of school transportation funds, and other important steps to improve our education system. I hope the legislature will adopt these recommendations.

Today, on the eve of your annual convention, I want to re-affirm my dedication to educational betterment in our State.

J. Strom Thurmond
Governor of South Carolina