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FROM GEORGE MACNABB

No people on earth may look forward to a more hopeful future than the people of the 15 states which are members of the Southern Governors' Conference, Governor J. Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Conference, told the Southern Association of Science and Industry today.

Speaking to a meeting of the Association held with the Charleston Lion's Club at 1 P.M., Governor Thurmond said the 15 states had shown an increase of about 100 billion dollars in total business volume during the decade from 1939 through 1949, which he said was an increase of 350% compared with 300% for the other states of the nation.

"During the same period," he said, "sales of utilities, always a good business barometer, increased by 400%, compared with an increase for the other states of 300%.

"The most impressive increase of the decade, however, is to be found in manufacturing. The Southern states increased their sales of manufactured products by almost 28 billion dollars, showing a 500% increase compared with a 350% increase in the other states of the nation," he said.

Governor Thurmond said South Carolina had gained more than \$333,000,000 in new industry during the past three years alone, creating 38,000 new jobs with more than \$90,000,000 in new payrolls.

The Southern Governors' Conference chairman added that the South may "find a new source of confidence in the future from the fact that we are winning our battle for equalization of freight rates" with the "last major obstacle to freight rate equality removed."