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Statement on Supreme Court Case State of Georgia versus Pennsylvania Railway

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON SUPREME COURT CASE OF STATE OF GEORGIA VERSUS PENNSYLVANIA RY. ET. AL., JUNE 15, 1950.

As Chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference I have received many inquiries about the recent recommendation of the Supreme Court Special Master that the case of the State of Georgia vs. the Pennsylvania Railway Company, et al, be dismissed. These inquiries indicate that a great many people in the South have been confused by this report and fear that the South has had a setback in its fight for Freight Rate Equality.

I wish to state emphatically that no such fears are justified. In fact, a large part of the Freight Rate discrimination against the South has already been removed by action of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and we are almost certain to win a complete victory in the Class Rate Case before the end of this year.

The Southern Governors' Conference and the State Commission of practically every State in the South have co-operated with hundreds of shippers in this fight during the past eleven years. We are now filing written evidence with the Interstate Commerce Commission concerning the level of the uniform rate which will be applied everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. Evidence of all parties is due to be filed before August 1 and we should have a final decision within a few weeks after that.

The Georgia Case did not involve the South's fight for equal
rates as it was a case seeking to penalize the Railroad for an alleged collusive action in fixing rates. The fight of the Southern Governors' Conference has been to secure equality for the South, and we will win that fight as to Class rates before the end of this year.

As Chairman of the Southern Governors, I can assure our people that this fight will be continued until the last vestige of freight rate discrimination against the South has been removed.