9-1-1950

Investigation of Ku Klux Klan Parade at Myrtle Beach

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR,
AT PRESS CONFERENCE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1,
1950, ON INVESTIGATION OF KU KLUX KLAN
PARADE AT MYRTLE BEACH AUGUST 26, 1950.

I have been asked to make a statement concerning
the incident at Myrtle Beach on the night of August 26, when
an officer of the law, James D. Johnston, was shot to death.

The Sheriff of Horry County has received the full
cooperation and assistance of the South Carolina Law Enforce-
ment Division in this matter. The investigation now in progress
will be continued until the complete facts are known as to
whatever violations of the law may have occurred. The result
of this investigation will be laid before the proper authorities
in due course.

I have received a request from Chief O. L. Brady
of the Constabulary to revoke the Commission of Constable
T. M. Floyd, of Loris, because of his affiliation with the
Klan. I have approved this request. I presume Chief Brady
will make a similar request in any similar cases.

My position on mob violence is well known. I am
against it.