

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE MERIT SYSTEM BY THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. SEPTEMBER 22, 1950.

The decision of the State Highway Department to install the merit system is a forward step which should do much to encourage the adoption of this system by all departments of the State Government.

Throughout my administration I have urged the General Assembly to pass legislation adopting the merit personnel system, because I feel that honesty, ability, energy, courtesy, and efficiency rather than political influence should be the factors determining original employment, tenure of office, and promotion.

A merit system would insure the State of full measure for its investment in personnel, while it would at the same time protect the welfare of all employees, regardless of political affiliations.

Several other departments already have their own systems, but the need is for a uniform system throughout the State Government.

*Original  
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