11-28-1950

Dedication of New Trans-Lux Newscast Sign by Radio Station WUSN

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Dedication of New Trans-Lux Newscast Sign by Radio Station WUSN" (1950). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 929.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/strom/929
I am happy to participate in the dedication of this fine new Trans-Lux newscast sign, because it is just another example of the progress South Carolina is making in almost all fields.

In inaugurating this service, WUSN has recorded another "first" for South Carolina, thus joining a parade of progress which is now leading our State toward new high levels of prosperity and achievement.

Shakespeare said: "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." It is my honest conviction that South Carolina today has reached the flood tide of fortune. If we have the will to do so, I believe we may seize upon that tide and rise with it to the heights of economic prosperity and social well-being. I am convinced that never before in our history have we faced a greater opportunity to realize to the fullest extent the native ability, courage, energy, and vision of our people.

For the past 80 years we have been one of the poorest states of the nation from an economic standpoint. Our low level of income has been reflected in low standings in every phase of
social welfare -- education, public health, and the like. Great masses of our people have been unable to carry their share of the tax burden upon which their needed state services depended.

The picture is changing today. During the past 10 years, our material progress has proceeded at a rate much faster than that of the nation as a whole. Our total business income more than quadrupled during that period, while that of the nation was tripled. Our income from manufacturing increased five times, compared with a national increase of three times. Our per capita income increased at a rate of more than 30% faster than the rest of the country.

South Carolina's most significant progress has been in industrial expansion and development. During the past four years alone, more than $425,000,000 has been expended or announced for the construction of new industries and plant expansions. This will create 50,000 new jobs with new payrolls reaching $100,000,000 a year.

Our progress in business and agriculture is keeping pace with this vast new industrial might, and we may now look forward with confidence to the day when South Carolina's economic prosperity will be on a par with the most prosperous states of the nation. Nowhere in the world is opportunity greater than right here in our own Southland, and leading economists have said that the South
can become the richest and most productive region on earth.

We in South Carolina are beginning to recognize the possibilities that surround us. We have a new faith in our future, and a new spirit of determination that our people shall attain the heights of achievement of which they are capable.