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Address at County-Wide Service Club Barbecue Supper of Cheraw Lions Club

Strom Thurmond

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It is a privilege to me to meet old friends in Cheraw and Chesterfield County, and to enjoy a visit to this beautiful section of our State. Such a meeting as this should inspire any South Carolina citizen, for it brings together members of all service clubs in a harmony of purpose, and in a unified devotion to the good of the community and the State.

Our beloved southland needs that kind of unity today. Conditions in the South are changing so rapidly that life has become a challenge to every southern citizen.

The fact is that the South is leading the nation in the march of progress. In the fields of agriculture and industry—twin foundation stones of our economy—the states from Maryland to Texas are gaining more rapidly than any other section of the country.

To make these achievements, the South has struggled upward against almost insurmountable obstacles. For many years after the War Between the States, our people were crushed and poverty-stricken. Their wealth and their economy had been wiped out by a tragic war, from which they sought to recover without the benefit of a Marshall Plan. In their effort to achieve prosperity, two major obstacles stood in their way—one-sided tariff restrictions and