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Address at Forest Industries Meeting

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AT FOREST INDUSTRIES MEETING, JEFFERSON HOTEL, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:00 A.M.

*Original
J. Strom Thurmond
Governor*

The system of free enterprise encouraged in South Carolina by a state governmental structure favorable to industrial expansion/has developed a highly productive group of forest industries. You who represent those industries here/are to be commended for your important contribution to our economic welfare, and to our security.

Your activities have made our forest enterprise second only to textiles/in value of plant investments, value of products, value added by manufacture, and number of persons employed. In 1949/ payrolls and profits amounted to 88 million dollars on sales that totaled 216 million dollars.

Our natural environment has the ability to produce abundantly the raw materials for this industry. In South Carolina some 12 million acres, or 60%, of the land area is forest land. In proportion to its forest land area, South Carolina in 1949 ranked third among all Southern States in the production of lumber.

However, heavy war-time and post-war uses have depleted our forest resources. This drain has exceeded the growth. Our forest lands now are producing less than is needed to sustain present industry, but with better forest fire protection, improved cutting practices, and the reforestation of idle lands, present production could easily be

doubled. This would not only insure raw materials for present industry, but would provide for an expansion to meet the ever growing demands for forest products.

This is not a job that any one group can do alone.

It will take the combined efforts of industrial leaders, landowners, and the general public, working with established agencies of the state government to reach this goal. I hope that at this meeting/you will study these problems and feel free to offer suggestions, criticisms, or comments of any kind/in order that we may strengthen South Carolina through better forestry.