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Letter to General Assembly about teachers' salaries

Strom Thurmond

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
COLUMBIA

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE:

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In my Annual Message to the 1950 General Assembly, I said:

"It is vital to the efficiency of our educational system that teachers' salaries be made comparable with other states and other callings, and a further increase is necessary to do this."

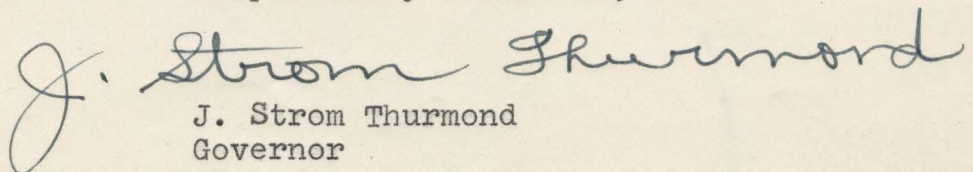
I want to reiterate that statement today. We cannot provide good schools without competent teachers, and our present acute shortage of teachers will continue so long as teacher salaries are not commensurate with those of other professions.

I urge the General Assembly to make adequate provision for an increase in teachers' salaries at this session.

At the same time, I want to point out that the purpose will not be accomplished by merely increasing the appropriation for the teachers in a State Appropriation Bill which exceeds in its total the presently estimated revenues of the State Government for the next fiscal year. That would only mean that neither the teachers nor any of the others appropriated for in such a bill would receive what is promised, for the money will not be in the State Treasury to pay them.

For this reason, I will not be able to sign an Appropriation Bill which is not in balance with the estimated revenue, but I will be able to sign a bill which is balanced by the inclusion, if necessary, of reasonable revenue measures sufficient to make next year's revenue of the State Government adequate to pay the appropriations made.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Strom Thurmond
Governor

April 18, 1950

K. G.