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[3 June 1950]

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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:

I have signed the State Appropriation Act which has just been adopted by both Houses of the General Assembly. It is supported by official estimates of revenue in the next fiscal year adequate to pay the appropriations made therein, and will leave the finances of the State sound and balanced.

You have had a difficult task, and one which was totally unforeseen, because the official revenue estimates upon which it was predicated last year indicated that the anticipated revenues were more than sufficient to support its total. These revenues were, of course, adversely affected by a reduction in the yield of income taxes, largely due to a nation-wide curtailment of textile production during a part of the fiscal year, and extensive agricultural crop failures, as well as reduction in liquor sales.

When the Budget Commission took action as required by the statutes to prevent a deficit occurring, you assured the Commission that you preferred to provide new revenues to balance the budget, and would do so, and this you have done in this Act. No one may agree completely with the solution, but everyone will recognize the firmness and seriousness with which you have faced and coped with the problem.

As the 88th General Assembly adjourns, it is only fitting that it be said that your sessions have contributed many progressive measures toward our common goal of giving better government to the people of South Carolina. Together we have kept our eyes toward the future of our State. We have gone forward and South Carolina is a better place to live in today than it was when we commenced our labors together when your 1949 session convened. Among the many constructive

Original
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Governor

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acts which you have written into law is the South Carolina Election Law, to guarantee to our people their full American heritage of representative self-government by safeguarding the sanctity of their ballots duly cast. You have also made a constructive start on State Government Reorganization by the approval of the Reorganization Plan for the State Budget and Control Board, and central purchasing of the State government's requirements.

In my Inaugural Address as Governor, I submitted to the people a comprehensive four year program to further the cause of good government in South Carolina, and to enable our State and our people to meet the solemn responsibilities and take full advantage of the opportunities facing our generation.

You have taken up where the 87th General Assembly left off, and I am gratified to say that 90 per cent of that program has been carried out.

I have been especially gratified by the vastly larger state support which we have given to our public school system. The full development of our State and its wealth of natural resources and human values requires the maximum progress in public education. I had hoped that the amount contributed by the State to the salaries of school teachers would be raised still more this year, as the means of putting them on a basis more comparable with other professions and callings.

I have been particularly appreciative of the cooperation and many courtesies which you have extended to me as Governor. It is by mutual cooperation of the separate branches of our State government that the people get the kind of public service which they have a right to expect from their public servants. I shall always stand ready to work in close cooperation with those who have the interest of South Carolina and our people at heart.

I wish for each and every one of you a safe journey to your homes, and I shall look forward to seeing you when you have occasion at any time to be in Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Strom Thurmond
Governor

June 3, 1950