

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

(By J. Strom Thurmond, Governor of South Carolina, designating the period between the dates of September 3-8, 1950, as "Pre-Natal Blood Test Week" for the State of S. C.)

- WHEREAS, Medical authorities estimate the occurrence of 10,000 cases of congenital syphilis annually in the United States, and that 14,000 children were treated for the disease in 1949, and
- WHEREAS, Congenital syphilis is regarded by medical authorities as one of the most savage and fatal of maladies inflicted on the innocent and helpless bodies of infants, and
- WHEREAS, The laws of South Carolina require that every expectant mother have made a serological test for syphilis at the time of her first obstetrical examination to prevent the occurrence of congenital syphilis in unborn children, and
- WHEREAS, A blood test is a simple, rapid, and painless procedure for diagnosing the presence of this killer of the unborn in the human body, other than evident clinical symptoms, and
- WHEREAS, It is the broadminded civic duty and public responsibility of every citizen, regardless of age, sex or color, to exercise precaution, and avail himself or herself of the facilities and services offered by the medical profession and the South Carolina State Board of Health in connection with the various county health departments, and thereby assist in the elimination of this savage nemesis to civilization from the borders of our fair State.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Strom Thurmond, Governor of South Carolina, do hereby designate and proclaim the week of September 3-8, 1950, as "Pre-Natal Blood Test Week", for the State of South Carolina.

Given under my hand and seal
this Second Day of September,
in the Year of Our Lord,
Nineteen Hundred and Fifty.

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA