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Radio script of Senator Strom Thurmond for the National Highway Users Conference exhibit at the Department of Commerce in Washington from June 22-July 21, recorded 1957 June 21

Strom Thurmond

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Question 1. What effect will the new Federal-state Highway program have in relieving traffic congestion and improving highway safety in South Carolina?

Answer

The new Federal-state Highway program will have a great effect in relieving traffic congestion and improving traffic safety in South Carolina. The extremely high design standard for the Interstate routes should enable us to reduce accidents, injuries, deaths and economic loss on these highways to a minimum. The new highway program will enable South Carolina to improve design standards on primary highways and to build new and desirable safety features the State previously was unable to include. This will have a salutary effect on congestion and accidents on both systems.

Question 2. What is the significance of this great program to our national defense?

Answer

In my opinion, this great program will enable our country to develop national defense measures required by the Atomic Era. This vast network of highways will expedite the flow of materials between defense centers. It will also make possible the rapid shifting of armed forces or civilian population, if that should become necessary due to a national emergency.
Question 3. It would seem that the great expenditure of funds which is contemplated under the program will be a stimulus to the nation's economy. Would you care to comment on that?

Answer

The expenditure of funds required by the program is bound to be a stimulus to our economy. To some degree the program will provide at least partial insurance against major economic setback while the work is in progress.

Question 4. How is the program progressing in your State?

Answer

South Carolina is gearing its construction program to make contract awards for the Interstate routes at the rate of five miles a month over the 13-year period. The Chief Highway Commissioner has informed me that we are progressing according to schedule and that he does not anticipate any difficulty in keeping up with it in the future.

END