Dear Brother Juniors:

Permit me to extend greetings to you at this time. The State Council meeting at Camden was splendid, and I wish every Junior in the State could have attended the sessions there. The programs were well arranged and very interesting, and Camden proved an ideal host. His Excellency, Governor Olin D. Johnston, a Brother member of our Order (Daniel Morgan Council #14 of Spartanburg) was prevented from being present on account of the pressure of Legislative matters, but otherwise the main features of the program were carried out in toto. All reports of the State officers rendered at the State meeting were well prepared and delivered, and the session was most interesting. Anderson was chosen as the place for the next State Convention, and Bro. Leon E. Harris, a prominent member of our Order from there, Bro. C. D. Burgess, District Deputy of District #14, and a number of other good brothers from that section convinced the State Council that it had acted wisely in choosing Anderson.

The 1935 session of the General Assembly of S. C. was a long one, and your State Councilor was engaged in his duties there as State Senator until May 18, the date of adjournment. It gives me pleasure to say that some important measures advocated by the Junior Order were adopted during the recent session. The Education Bill increasing the State supported school term from six to seven months, and increasing the average salary of teachers from $66.00 to $75.00 per month, and embodying a provision prohibiting the chiseling of teachers' salaries, was adopted a few days before adjournment. This new law will result in a longer school term for a great many children in the State, especially in rural districts; in other districts where a reasonable term is now provided, the increased state-supported term will permit the Trustees or local authorities to reduce the school millage and relieve somewhat the burden from the taxpayers in the particular districts. School teachers' salaries have been inadequate and the raise provided for in the bill is entirely justified.

Another bill was passed by the General Assembly in its closing days in which the Junior Order is vitally interested. It provides for the supplying of text-books on a rental basis to the school children in the State. The Junior Order has long favored
free text-books for school children and this bill is the nearest step to that objective that has yet been taken in South Carolina, and we hope that it is the stepping stone to free text-books in the State. It has been estimated that this Rental Text-book Bill will save the parents of school pupils in the State about $1,000,000.00 annually. The State Superintendent of Education is to establish a Division of Text-books within the State Department of Education and shall appoint a Director of said Division to administer this Act.

We feel that the General Assembly acted wisely in the passage of both of the above Bills and that these new Acts will result in great benefit to the schools and to the children who are the future citizens of our State.

Here's hoping that 1935 will be the best year in the history of Juniorism in South Carolina, and I wish every member of the Order a happy and successful year.

Fraternally yours,

J. Strom Thurmond
State Councilor