Dear Brother Juniors:

There are many reasons why the Junior Order is one of the greatest Fraternities in this or any other land. One reason is that its membership is composed of 100% Americans who are men of lofty ideals and high character. I think the greatest attribute in the world that can be paid a person is to say that he is a man of CHARACTER.

Character is a thing that men have fought for and women have died for. It is the charm of the young and the strength of the old. It is the thing that keeps us clean and enables us to face our mirrors at the end of the day without closing our eyes. All real happiness is a by-product of character.

The business world places a high premium on character. Of the three essential qualities considered by business in selecting employees it considers courtesy and efficiency both only 40% and character alone 60%.

Without character the most lovable woman is more hateful than a witch, the wisest man is more ignorant than a fool, and the most scrupulous religionist is more dangerous than the devil himself. Without character those who bathe yet remain filthy, the nobility are vulgar, the famous are infamous and those in high station become contemptible.

A man may possess the strong form of an athlete or the keen mind of a statesman but if he lacks character he is doomed to failure. A person may possess wonderful natural ability or may even have greatness thrust upon him but if he is without character the seeds of success are not in him. A man of character will neither pervert righteousness nor falsify facts to defeat an adversary. He will not swerve from the path of duty for the love of friends or the fear of foes.
A person may paint pictures but in due time they will fade. He may carve statues from marvel but they may become broken. He may write good books but they may mould. He may build temples, sky-scrapers and beautiful buildings of fine architecture but in due time they will crumble. If a man is a person of character, however, his exemplary life, noble deeds and service to mankind will be handed down from one generation to the next, and the influence of this man of character will be felt to the end of the world.

Men are worth more than money, souls are worth more than gold, culture should be placed above rubies, honor above diamonds and character preferred over houses and lands. A man may lose his position, his money, his home and even his health, which is his greatest asset other than character, yet if he holds his fast to character he is the winner. Any organization whose membership typifies character as does that of the Junior Order is bound to be a great organization, wield wonderful influence for good, and is destined to accomplish magnificent results and render splendid service to the nation and to mankind.

On January 11, 1936, your State Councilor attended an excellent District Meeting in District No. 5, his home District. Brother Archie D. Croft is working hard in this District and making an excellent record as District Deputy. Brother Lewis H. Gault of Union was present and made a splendid address which was well received and much enjoyed by all present.

On January 31, 1936, your State Councilor attended an enthusiastic District Meeting at Woodruff. There was a large crowd present. A nice hash supper was served, splendid talks were made by a number of the brethren and a most pleasant evening was enjoyed by all present. Brother R. M. DuBard, the active and energetic District Deputy of this District was re-elected for another year. Brothers Toole, Blanton and the other Woodruff brethren proved to be ideal hosts for the meeting.
On February 6, 1936, your State Councilor attended a District Meeting at Bishopville. On account of the freezing temperature and inclement weather only a small crowd was present. Brother William E. Baskin, Jr., the active District Deputy in this District is full of energy and is determined to put this District on the top, and we expect to hear good results from the Councils in Lee and Sumter Counties in the future.

The Annual Convention of the Junior Order will be held at Anderson, S. C. this year on April 28th and 29th. On Monday night, April 27th, the night before the State session begins, the members of the Junior Order and the Daughters of America will have a joint banquet and all members attending the State Convention, and any other members of the Order interested in attending the banquet, are invited to be present at this banquet. This should be a most enjoyable occasion and I wish to urge as many as possible to attend this banquet. In order that there might not be a shortage of plates it is suggested that those planning to attend the banquet notify Brother E. J. Hisey, State Secretary, Charleston, S. C., some time before the date of the State Convention.

Your State Councilor has received word that Anderson is making great preparations to entertain our State Convention in April. This should be the finest and most enthusiastic Annual Convention in the history of Juniorism in this State. We are striving hard to arrange a program that will be helpful and entertaining. Plan now to attend this Convention. It will be an occasion that you will always be able to recall with pleasure and be proud that you attended.

With many good wishes to the members of this great Fraternity,

Fraternally yours,

J. STROM THURMOND
State Councilor.