Edgefield, S. C.,
January 21, 1936.

Dear Brother Juniors:

Fraternalism is a mighty force working for the upbuilding of the race of men. At the head of all the arts and sciences, at the head of civilization and progress stands, not militarism, the science that kills, nor commerce, the art that accumulates wealth, nor agriculture, the mother of all industry and the maintainer of all human life, but FRATERNALISM, which teaches love for one’s neighbor, cements friendships, soothes broken hearts, lubricates good fellowship, and brings order out of chaos. Fraternalism has never cast a shadow on a home, has never wounded a human heart, has never wronged a human soul, has never been deaf to the cry of the needy, has never been blind to the wants of the deserving, but is continuously striving to render service to mankind. When thinking of fraternalism, I am reminded of the lines of the poet who said:

"I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the Heaven that smiles above me,
And the good that I can do."

The Junior Order is not only the largest patriotic fraternity in the United States, but it is also one of the finest of all fraternities throughout the land, and is today rendering a magnificent service to its members, to our country, and to civilization. It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of such a fraternity. We should appreciate our membership in this noble Order and should work and strive to build it up and live up to the high ideals and principles for which it stands.

Our primary attitude toward the Junior Order should be one of LOYALTY. Loyalty is one of the most priceless qualities of the human soul. A man may be stupid, or he may be guilty
of many shortcomings, but if he is loyal, his stupidity and shortcomings will generally be overlooked. A man may be ambitious, energetic, capable and honest, but if he is not loyal, he will be despised by his fellowmen. Loyalty is that quality that sets a man apart more than a kingly robe. It is that cement that makes friendships. It causes institutions or nations to rise or fall. The success of a business or a corporation depends on the loyalty of its employees more than upon anything else; without it, the business or corporation is doomed to failure. It has been said that loyalty is the one quality above all others that elevates man to the highest pinnacle of honor, virtue, happiness and success, and without it he would sink to the lowest depths of shame and misery. It is the one quality that makes all manhood worthy, and all womanhood lovely.

I wish to take this opportunity to urge all members of the Order to be loyal to it in every sense of the word, and let's make 1936 the best year in the history of Juniorism in South Carolina.

With best wishes to the members of our Order,

Fraternally yours,

State Councillor.

J. Strom Thurmond,
State Councillor.