DEPENDENCY

Address of Judge J. Strom Thurmond
Before the Council for the Common Good,
Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina,
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Dependency in the Old South was the most typical situation of the working people of this area. It has been accepted as a social problem until today and is still being by many of the people and groups of workers. The principle of the individual’s self-sufficiency and self-control were used for the maintenance of the people in the group and even under certain circumstances for the development of the people for a fuller life, with the development of their potentialities.
Members of the Women's Council for the Common Good, and Friends:

This organization is rendering our state a unique service in conducting the Annual Club Institute on Public Affairs. The women of our state interested in the betterment of living conditions, and the people generally, have a splendid opportunity of obtaining information and inspiration from the type of programs your Institute is presenting to the public. I am glad to be here and have a small part on this worthwhile program.

In considering the subject assigned me - "Dependency" - I am at a loss to know where to start and where to end. It is an extremely broad subject and covers so many phases that one could speak for an hour on a particular viewpoint of a certain phase of this subject. Your industrious and progressive Program Director, Mrs. C. Fred Laurence, suggested that I speak on the administrative set-ups caring for dependents in this state, and offer some suggestions on the general subject of "Dependency."

Various definitions might be given for dependency, but I am defining it as "the state of being unable to provide for one's needs." A general definition of a dependent is "one who cannot take care of himself." In my treatment of this subject, however, I shall consider a dependent as "one cared for by the public to prevent suffering or to protect society."

South Carolina pioneered in coping with the problem of dependency. In 1779 a statute was enacted in this state providing for the establishment of a Board of Regents to have charge of institutions maintained by the state for the care of the insane, and this was followed the next year by the establishment of the State Hospital for the Insane. Later in 1868 legislation was enacted providing assistance to the needy. The constitution of 1868 embraced a provision that the various counties of the state should "make such provisions as may be determined by law for all inhabitants who by reason of age, infirmity and misfortune may have a claim upon the sympathy and aid of society." Pursuant to this constitutional mandate, a "poor law" was enacted in 1870 providing that the poor should be taken care of in almshouses or on poor farms in each county, under general supervision of the County Board of Commissioners or other governing bodies. The problem in many cases was handled inefficiently and did not accomplish the results which the sponsors of the said legislation had evidently hoped for.

The question of dependency is one that deserves the most careful attention of the thinking people of this state. It did not appear as a social problem until tribal society gave way to civil society. So long as society was composed of groups of blood relatives, individual initiative and ability were used for the advantage of all members of the group; and even when communities were small, this was true to a great extent; but with the growth of the population, with the invention of a medium of exchange, with the wants of the people for a fuller life, with the development
of agriculture and demand for fertile land, with the fast expansion of industrial activities and the consequent growth of commerce, a new form of social organization has arisen. Classes developed, and control of necessities as well as luxuries resulted; on the one hand appeared individual wealth, and on the other, mass poverty. We shifted from a land economy to a money economy, and the work of the young and old no longer had the same value as formerly in helping a family to make their own way. Poverty and dependency appeared in new forms and with a changed meaning. While large families were once an asset in meeting the needs of the group, they are now liable to become public charges.

Dependency is not only an important subject from the standpoint of involving human suffering for those immediately concerned, but its tentacles spread into all parts of society. It increases crime; it lessens prosperity, both through the economic burden involved and through destruction of ambition and the spirit of independence; it impairs the health of large numbers of people; it hampers the educational program, both by reason of public money required to care for dependents and by forcing into employment children who should be in school; it leads to vice, both through crowding and the inability of persons to satisfy their wants by normal means; it results in broken homes through desertion of families and divorce; it prevents the development of culture; it prohibits the social use of leisure time. Dependency almost threatens civilization itself, and must be controlled if the very foundations of democracy are to exist.

WHAT SOUTH CAROLINA IS NOW DOING

If we are to find a solution to the problem of dependency, we must inform ourselves with regard to what our state is now doing, and I deem it wise to explain at this time the various functions performed by our state either through its own efforts or through cooperation with the federal government.

South Carolina is cooperating with the federal government in the administration of the provisions of the National Social Security Act of 1935, which contains 8 sections, each of which I shall now discuss:

1. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES. This is administered by the United States Public Health Service on a national scale, and administered in South Carolina by the State Department of Health. Both the federal government and the state make appropriations. This work was begun in South Carolina in 1911, when the State appropriated $20,000 for it, which gave an average amount of $0.013 per person. Last year there was $1,000,000 available for this work, and with the 1,739,765 population of this state this meant an average amount of 58.76 per person. Various essential services that prevent disease and alleviate human suffering are performed with these funds.
2. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. This is administered by the United States Department of the Interior, and administered in South Carolina by the State Department of Education. The work was started in the state in 1927, and both the State and Federal Governments make appropriations for same. This service is designed to restore, through remunerative employment and self-support, persons who have lost their earning capacity through permanent physical disability. The goal is to enable those persons to make a living who are disabled through heart trouble, arrested tuberculosis, blindness and deafness, and the services for rehabilitation are limited to persons over 18 years of age.

3. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. This is administered by the Federal Social Security Board, and administered in South Carolina by the State Department of Public Welfare. It makes provision for aid to the needy aged, needy blind, and dependent children. Time will not permit me to dwell at length on each group, but I shall speak of the same briefly, in the order named. (1) Needy Aged. While the Federal Government will pay one-half of any award for old age assistance up to a total of $30 per month, under the South Carolina Public Welfare Act the maximum that can be awarded in South Carolina is $20 per month, of which the Federal Treasury pays one-half. Recipients must have reached the age of 65 years, must be citizens of the United States, and must have resided in South Carolina for five out of the last nine years preceding the date of application, at least one year of which period must have immediately preceded date of application. Undoubtedly the need of this group is more acute in our state than in many sections of the country, and this explains why a larger percentage of our aged people are found eligible for assistance than is the case in more prosperous states. A report of the Department of Public Welfare issued in May, 1939, shows that there were 24,592 recipients in this group, who received an average monthly award of $7.86 (one-half from state funds). This represents 39.6% of the total estimated aged population in the state. It might be well if I would state that no old age pension is provided either by the federal government or by the State of South Carolina. Many people have misunderstood this important fact and are under the impression that any person 65 years of age or over may receive aid, but it should not be overlooked that the sole basis for granting public assistance to aged persons is need. (2) Needy Blind. Aid for needy blind persons is made available under the federal and state acts for those needy persons whose vision with glasses is less than 20/200 of normal vision - that is, whose sight at a distance of 20 feet is only equal to, or is less than, that of the average person at 200 feet. The maximum assistance payable is $25 per month, one-half of which is contributed by the federal government. The law requires that each applicant for aid to the needy blind submit to competent examination, to be paid for by the Department. If upon examination or re-examination it is found that surgical operation or treatment may remove his disability, the Department
may expend for such treatment or operation an amount equivalent to the assistance which the applicant might receive in one year, and refusal to permit such treatment or operation is sufficient cause for discontinuance or reduction of assistance. The records for May, 1939, show that there were 891 recipients in this group who received an average monthly award of $10.25 (one-half from state funds). (3) Dependent Children. Aid to dependent children is designed to provide proper support, care and training to children under 16 years of age who have been deprived of parental support or care by reason of the death, continued absence from home, or physical or mental incapacity of a parent, and who otherwise might become public charges. Unlike the provision for other forms of public assistance in the case of aid to dependent children the Federal Government pays only one-third of the total amount used — that is, the State must provide $2 for every dollar contributed from federal funds. The maximum payment under the State law is $15 per month, of which the Social Security Board contributes $5, for the care and support of a child. The records show that there were 12,882 children recipients in this group, who received an average monthly award of $4.95 (two-thirds from state funds). This is 1.61% of the total state population of children under 16 years of age.

You observe that federal contribution to state funds for cash assistance is available under the South Carolina Public Welfare Act for only three classes of needy persons - those 65 years of age and over, those who are blind, without regard to age, and dependent children under 16 years of age. No provision is made in the Social Security Act for assisting needy and helpless persons between the ages of 16 and 65 who are not blind. The South Carolina Public Welfare Act, however, makes provision for assistance from State funds for such needy persons upon condition that the county "appropriates and makes available from its own funds a sum of money for the care and support of persons who are not eligible for other forms of assistance provided in this act, and who are unable to support themselves because of physical or mental infirmity and who would suffer unless so provided for." This type of relief is optional with the counties.

The Department of Public Welfare performs certain special services. As herinafter stated, Child Welfare Service is administered by this department and is an integral part of its program. It selects and certifies young men for the Civilian Conservation Corps, known as the CCC. It distributes surplus commodities donated by the federal government. It administers a program for the treatment and prevention of blindness, said program being financed by the state only. It performs a vast amount of intangible services to individual communities, juvenile courts, and institutions of this state and others, the miscellaneous character of which cannot be tabulated in dollars and cents. There has been some criticism to the effect that Negroes are receiving more money than whites, but a glance at the said department's report for April, 1939, shows that both the white needy aged and white dependent children
received larger total amounts and larger recipient amounts than did the Negroes. The Negro needy blind received a slightly larger total amount than the white needy blind. This was caused by the number of Negro recipients exceeding so greatly the number of white recipient, but the whites received a larger amount per recipient than did the Negroes. The whites received a larger total amount and a larger average amount per recipient of general relief - that is, relief to the unfortunate and handicapped group - than did the Negroes. The administration cost of the department has been gradually lowered since its beginning and for the quarter ending March 31, 1939, it was only 5.64% of the total cash and commodity assistance given the needy of the state, which amount could not be considered excessive. The said department has also administered during the past year relief to the needy unemployed. This cares for a few individuals who are in destitute circumstances and not eligible for assistance under any other phase of the Social Security program, and who need only temporary assistance until they can get work. This has no connection, however, with federal unemployment compensation.

4. OLD AGE INSURANCE. This is administered by the Federal Social Security Board, and administered in South Carolina by the Federal Social Security Office. The law requires both the employer and employee to put a certain percent of the employee's wages into the old-age reserve account in the United States Treasury, set aside by law for the purpose. The government sets up a Social Security account for each employee and gives that account a number, so that it will not be confused with accounts of workers who have the same or similar names. To receive monthly benefits after the age of 65 a worker must no longer be regularly employed. If he works after 65, his benefits will not begin until he retires. Should a worker die before he is 65, his estate will receive a payment equal to 33% on each dollar of his wages counted toward benefits. Monthly benefits under the system of Federal Old Age insurance will begin in 1942, and many millions of workers throughout the nation will be able to qualify for the monthly benefits when they are 65 years of age.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. This is administered by the Federal Social Security Board, and administered in South Carolina by the South Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission. The unemployment compensation law provides for weekly payments to qualified workers who are laid off or lose their jobs. These payments come from a fund made up of contributions collected by the State for the purpose. They are not equal to the worker's regular pay, but they will usually tide him over until he can get back to work. A Federal tax is levied on employers' payrolls in factories, shops, mills, mines, storers, offices, and other places of business employing eight or more persons, and those persons must be employed at least a part of one day in each of 20 weeks in the year.
6. MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. Administered by the United States Children's Bureau, and administered in South Carolina by the State Department of Health. Appropriations are made by both the federal government and the state for this work. It saves many lives and is most worthy work.

7. Crippled Children's Service. Administered by the United States Children's Bureau and administered in South Carolina by the Crippled Children's Division in cooperation with the State Department of Health. Your Distinguished President, Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, is in charge of the work in this state. Artificial limbs, braces, etc., are furnished to the crippled children, and operations performed when needed, and service is in the form of treatment only. The children are also given special training and service is limited to those under 16 years of age. This service is closely allied with rehabilitation under the Department of Education.

8. Child Welfare Services. This is administered by the United States Children's Bureau, and administered in South Carolina by the Child Welfare Division of the State Department of Public Welfare. No money is granted but the services consist in planning and giving advice for the best interest of children. It involves problems affecting the wholesome, normal, physical, mental and spiritual development of the children; advice and consultation is given the public, private agencies, schools, courts, etc.; communities are made aware of the need of their children and of community responsibility in providing for those needs; the importance of normal family ties and the happy, wholesome development of children is emphasized; maladjusted children are interpreted to parents, school and community. Research as to the causes and background of juvenile delinquency is carried on; and many intangible needs of children are met. Trained workers with experience and skill in dealing with problems affecting children are provided by this service.

In addition to cooperation by the state under the aforesaid provisions of the National Social Security Act, the State of South Carolina provides various institutions and agencies to care for and prevent dependence, and these will now be considered briefly, to wit:

1. STATE HOSPITAL (1780). This institution cares for the insane and those who are mentally sick. According to the superintendal it is now about 15% overcrowded, and the admission rate in the last 2 years has been high. The records show that throughout the nation there are 276,2 persons mentally ill per 100,000 of population, and that in South Carolina the rate is about 192.2 per 100,000 of population. This will indicate that we have few mental cases in this state; however, this may be misleading as there may be a failure to report such cases.
2. STATE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND (1870).
   This institution is commonly known as Cedar Springs, and
   admits all deaf mutos and blind of the state of proper age and
   mental capacity. It is located several miles from Spartanburg,
   S. C.

3. STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR WHITE BOYS (1900). This is a
   reformatory and industrial school for white boys between the
   ages of 12 and 17 who may be voluntarily committed to the insti-
   tution by their parents or guardians, or may commit themselves,
   or may be committed by a judge or magistrate, and they shall
   remain there until arriving at the age of 21 years, unless sooner
   discharged by law. They are frequently committed for crime, or
   in some cases when incorrigible.

4. JOHN G. RICHARDS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR NEGRO BOYS (1906).
   This is an institution for Negro boys similar to the one
   described for white boys. Boys may be admitted here up until
   the age of 16. It is located in Richland County, several miles
   from Columbia.

5. HOME FOR CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND THEIR WIDOWS (1908).
   This institution cares for Confederate veterans and their
   widows, and is located in Columbia.

6. SOUTH CAROLINA SANATORIUM (1915). This institution cares
   for those affected with tuberculosis and is located at State
   Park out from Columbia.

7. JOHN DE LA HOWE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (1918). This institution
   cares for orphan children, illegitimates and others who are being
   brought up in improper surroundings or have inadequate support.
   It is located in McCormick County.

8. STATE TRAINING SCHOOL (1918). This institution cares for the
   feebleminded people of the state, and those inmates who have
   the ability are taught a trade or to do something useful. It is
   located at Clinton.

9. STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (1918). This is an insti-
   tution for white girls similar to the one for white boys and
   is located out from Columbia.

10. STATE PENITENTIARY. To this institution are committed those
    who have been convicted of violating the laws of the state,
    and their terms range from 6 months to life imprisonment; also
    incarcerated there are those sentenced to electrocution.

11. CHILDREN'S BUREAU (1920). This is commonly known as the Child
    Placing Bureau and the headquarters are in Columbia. It
    places destitute, neglected, dependent and delinquent children in
    private families, and safeguards the welfare of each child. A
    thorough investigation of the home and its environment is made and
    each child is personally supervised until it receives legal
    adoption or attains legal age.
12. COUNTY JAILS. Each of the 46 counties in the state have a county jail, and in them are incarcerated persons who are to be tried for alleged violations of law, and also persons who have been tried and because of disability or some other special reason are sentenced to serve time in jail rather than on the chaingang or in the State Penitentiary.

13. COUNTY CHAINGANGS. Most of the counties in the state have county chaingangs, and to them are committed to serve time persons who have been convicted of violating some law of the state. Law violators receiving sentence of less than six months serve the same on the county chaingangs or in county jails.

14. COUNTY HOMES OR POOR HOUSES. These institutions care for aged, indigent, and disabled persons who are unable to care for themselves, and who would suffer unless supported by the public in this manner. Since passage of the National Social Security Act a large number of such inmates have qualified for aid under the Public Assistance section of said act, and been removed from said homes. On account of the aid granted under the Social Security Act to this class of persons, it has been possible for some counties to close their poor houses entirely.

The administration of the work programs, WPA and NYA, are directly under Federal Supervision in the State. The work programs are not under the Social Security Act, but deal with a group of people who are not able to get work on a private basis, which puts them in the group with dependent persons to some extent. Not so much, however, as the people who receive assistance gratis.

The Farm Security Administration assists persons with farm background to become re-established on farms. These families are not always dependent, but in danger of becoming dependent.

WHAT SOUTH CAROLINA SHOULD DO

No study of this problem would be complete without a discussion of preventive agencies and methods. If it is our desire to reach an adequate solution to the problem of dependency we must consider whether, in addition to the ambulances at the bottom of the precipice, we should not provide a fence at the top in order to lessen the number who fall over. Then, the kind of fence must be considered. Study shows that dependency is a resultant of diverse and complex social and economic maladjustment. Legislation, schools, social institutions, industry, churches, customs, group habits, attitudes and ideals all bear on this problem. It is our duty not only to adequately care for the dependents in our state but also to try to prevent as much dependency as possible in the future. If no steps are taken to prevent dependency, instead of becoming less in the future it will become greater as the population increases. There are certain topics along the preventive line that I shall now discuss:
1. HEALTH. Health means happiness; without it there can be very little enjoyment in this life. Bad health is a prolific source of crime, and in many instances, if it cannot be shown that a criminal failed to receive proper home training, it can be shown that he is mentally or physically sick. Unhealthy people are not normal people. It has been said that three-fourths of blindness is caused by disease. I am informed that there is a considerable waiting list at both the State Hospital and the State Sanatorium - a list composed of citizens of this state whose families are taxpayers - yet these individuals, on account of not being admitted, will continue to suffer from serious maladies. A state may have beautiful forests, unlimited coal, iron, oil, or other natural resources, and its citizenship may be intelligent and industrious, it may abound in industries and fertile land, but if the population is sickly and lacking in vigor, the citizenship will be unhappy and the state cannot become great. Investments in health constitute good business and should return big dividends, not only in the increased output on the part of the citizens but also in their happiness, enjoyment and ability to live a fuller and richer life. It has been said that one-half of the amount of loss by sickness is due to preventable causes, yet there are many communities that maintain excellent fire trucks and equipment to fight fires, maintain splendid police systems and various other services for its citizens, but neglect the most vital and essential service that could be rendered, that is, the health of its citizens. Some of the insurance companies are able to answer the question as to the value of health work in a convincing manner. One company spent $27,000,000 on public health work and education among its policy holders in 16 years, and in so doing saved $64,000,000 in death claims alone, not to mention the fact that the length of life of its policy holders was increased. The public is probably more health-conscious now than it has been in the history of this nation, and will demand increasingly adequate health services. The prevalence of malaria, which infects, annually more than 2,000,000 people, is estimated to have reduced the industrial output of the South one-third. Pellagra, a disease chiefly due to inadequate diet, affects South Carolina and other southern states almost exclusively. Ill health lessens industrial efficiency, lowers the standard of family life, deprives people of comforts and encourages inferior citizenship. Since the War Between the States, the South has been the poorest section in the nation. The richest state in the south ranks lower in per capita income than the poorest state outside the region. In 1933 the average income in the South was $314; in the rest of the country it was $604, almost twice as much. The low income belt of the South is a belt of sickness and unnecessary deaths. The climate is not the blame - the South is as healthful as any section for those who have the necessary care, diet, and freedom from occupational disease. More federal aid for health work in poorer states like ours is a crying need.
2. EDUCATION. Education is one of the functions of a civilized people. Its advantages are too numerous to enumerate. It is interesting to note that when adequate education is provided in a community dependency is greatly lowered. Some time back statistics were compiled on college graduates, which showed that only 1 to 2 per cent were on relief compared with 30 to 40 per cent of the non-college group. Training pays, and people do not become too old to learn. There are wide-scale adult education programs now operating throughout the nation. The report made in April, 1939, on WPA employment in this state showed that 72.2 per cent of those employed on WPA projects were unskilled.

In a survey made in an area of this state comprising 11 small schools it was found that 40 per cent of the white population was of legal school age but only 28 per cent was attending school, that 45 to 49 per cent of the first grade pupils either failed to pass the first grade or dropped out before the end of the school year, that 60 per cent of elementary pupils failed to reach the 7th grade, that not more than 25 per cent entered high school, and not more than 12 per cent completed the high school course. Surely such conditions can be bettered. In a great many schools, the curriculum for high schools is designed primarily for college entrance, yet only a very small per cent of high school graduates attend college. Our education program is not functional. Because of this a great many students drop out, and those who remain do not have the opportunity of pursuing courses that will be helpful and functional in their lives.

South Carolina, in proportion to her ability to pay for education, has done much better than many other states. In a survey made it was shown that the ability to pay for education in this state was only $15 per child while the national average was $50 per child. In this state, the high school enrollment is only 15 per cent of the total school enrollment while the national average is 25 per cent of such total. On account of the poverty of our people a great many pupils drop out to go to work. The average teacher pay in the 3 poorer states, and that includes ours, is $600 annually, compared with $1800 in the 3 richest states. With salaries being paid here that are so much lower than the national average it will be hard for our state to obtain adequate teacher service, and this in turn will greatly handicap the school children. In the South, owing to the higher birth rate and the migration of adult workers, the proportion of productive workers to school children is much lower than in the rest of the country. In their search for jobs, the productive middle-aged group leave this section in the greatest numbers, tending to make it a land of the very old and the very young. We have the children in this section but other sections have the money, and it means that the South must educate one-third of the nation's children with one-sixth of the nation's school revenue.
A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and since the South is the source of a considerable part of the rest of the nation's population, the South's difficulties in providing proper school facilities is a national problem. To maintain and expand our educational program without undue hardship on our taxpayers, federal aid for education is imperative.

3. RECREATION. Some people have the idea that recreation means wasting time or passing off time. Such a conception is most erroneous as proper recreation is essential to the well being of a person. Leisure time is frequently unwisely spent. No time should ever be wasted and in a person's leisure he should do something that will promote his mental, physical or spiritual well being. The main idea in leisure is to divert one's mind from his regular work, but this does not mean that he should do nothing or fritter away his time, as it should always be used in a valuable manner.

A great deal of crime, especially juvenile delinquency, is caused by a lack of proper recreation. Most recreation is commercial. Practically all swimming pools are privately owned and charge an admission fee. Bowling alleys, moving pictures and other forms of recreation occupy a similar status. When our cities and towns shall provide proper recreation facilities a new day will dawn for our State and our crime record will decrease.

Young people desire activity. They wish a contest, they crave excitement and adventure. Heredity provides the driving force in an individual, but the environment sets the pattern. A boy may inherit an abundance of energy, an attractive personality, an ambition to achieve, but if these qualities are not directed properly he will soon be treading the downward path. A large portion of a young person's life is available for guidance and recreational activities, and there is a most excellent opportunity along this line if our civic leaders had the vision to seize it.

Some time back several boys were playing baseball on a street in New York City. The policemen, of course, made them discontinue the game. They desired a contest, were full of energy, and an outlet for the same was needed. They strolled down the street, walked around the corner, and grabbed a bunch of bananas, simply to ascertain if they could "do it and get away with it." They were arrested, tried and sentenced to a reformatory. They were not bad boys but simply desired activity and craved excitement. We are out to catch the criminal, and in the desire to catch him we overlook thousands of potential criminals. Instead of standing by trying to put out the fire we should be trying to prevent the fire. I feel that a great deal of dependency could be prevented through proper recreation.
4. THrift. Under no circumstances should we allow human suffering to exist in the borders of our State. If we can instill a spirit of thrift in our people a great deal of dependency will be prevented. There should be systematic saving on the part of our citizens, as statistics show that this is the only method by which thrift is actually accomplished. Easy credit invites reckless spending. Unless one has an exceptionally level head and self-control, a good credit can keep him poor.

Wherever possible a family should have a garden, yet I am informed that many farm families do not have a garden. In some cases the landlord does not allow the land. Parents should encourage their children to do chores about the place, sell papers and magazines, and do other jobs to inculcate in the youth the spirit of thrift.

People should be encouraged to take life insurance. Savings in the form of life insurance or in other ways provide security for the future. Individuals should be encouraged to depend on their own resources and not feel that a hand-out will be made to them. They should have it instilled in them that they are morally obligated to help support the government and not the government support them, unless misfortune should overtake them. In South Carolina only 15 per cent of the farmers own the farms they cultivate, 34 per cent renters, and 31 per cent are share-croppers. The farm families of South Carolina average only 8/10 milk cows for family of five. In 1929 the farmers of this State produced 209 eggs per farm person as compared to 1070 per farm person for the nation. In 1929 ten counties in South Carolina had an average of only one pig or less per family of five; the average for the State was 2.6 as compared to 9.6 per farm family of five in the United States. In 1929 the average farmer in this state spent $4.38 for fertilizer for each acre of crop land, while in the United States the average farmer spent only .66 cents per acre of crop land. In 1930 the average value of farmers' dwellings per farm in this State was $560.00 as compared to $1126.00 for each farm dwelling in the United States. In South Carolina only 4 per cent of the farm homes have telephones as compared with 34 per cent of the farm homes of the nation. In 1930, 37 per cent had automobiles as compared to 58 per cent for the nation. In 1930, only 2 per cent of South Carolina farm homes had water piped to the bath rooms as compared to 8 per cent for the nation.

Possibly the most powerful thing in the world is habit. Acquiring good habits is most essential, and one of the most important of good habits is the habit of thrift. Considerable dependency could be eliminated if more of our people practiced thrift.

A matter of vital importance to this state is a bill now pending in Congress providing for revision of the Social Security program to give greater federal benefits to the less wealthy states. It is sponsored by our own capable Senator, James F. Byrnes, and
boars the approval of Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer, of the Social Security Board, and other Social Security experts. This proposed legislation is altogether fair and it is hoped that sentiment will crystallize in its favor, as the enactment of same would be a tremendous benefit to our state.

In closing, I wish to say that dependency has never made a nation great. If our country is to continue to make forward strides we should eliminate as much dependency as possible and build an independent citizenship. Independence means a broader and better life. Independence means less of sickness and sorrow and more of health and happiness. Independence means the destruction of fear, that quality that blights and makes dependent the lives of people. Independence means living in abundance instead of living in poverty. Independence means music, and music has converted more people than have sermons. Independence means art and an appreciation of the finer values of life. Independence means love, and love is the greatest thing in the world.

So it behooves us to strive to prevent dependency and build a citizenship that is independent, patriotic, God-fearing, and home-loving.