To the Officers and Members of the State Council of South Carolina, Junior Order, U. A. M.:

During the past year your State vice-Councilor has had the privilege and pleasure of attending Council and District meetings of the Junior Order throughout various parts of the State and attended numerous meetings from Charleston, the City by the Sea, to Greenville, the Pearl of the Piedmont, at the foothill of the Mountains. It was necessary for the State vice-Councilor to attend more meetings than usual on account of the serious illness of our beloved State Councilor, Brother W. W. Smoak. I wish to take this opportunity, however, to congratulate Brother Smoak for his excellent work as State Councilor after recuperating from his illness. He is a gentleman of the highest character and ideals, is full of energy and enthusiasm and has ever been on the alert to promote the objects and ideals of this glorious Fraternity.

At this time I wish to also state that our State Secretary, Brother E. J. Hisey, State Treasurer, Brother Charles M. Griffin, and other State officers have worked hard during the past year and efficiently performed their duties and deserve the commendation of the State Council for their splendid services.

Quite a number of new Junior Order Councils have been organized throughout the State of South Carolina during the year 1934, and your State vice-Councilor had the pleasure of instituting or participating in the institution of new Councils on the dates at the places given below, to wit:
June 6, Barnwell, June 26, Williston, August 17, Batesburg,
August 29, Denmark, October 12, Wagener, November 15, Saluda,
Johnston, December 5, Bamberg. All of the above Councils were organized by Brother W. L. Mobley of Aiken and are wide-awake, active Councils and doing splendid work with the exception of two, and we hoping that there will be a revival of these two in the near future. Brother Mobley has organized more new Councils in the State during the past year than any other Organizer, having successfully organized Councils in different parts of the State. It gives me pleasure at this time to congratulate him on the magnificent work that he has done in this State on behalf of Juniorism during the past year and he is due the whole-hearted credit and thanks of the State Council.

Our great Order is to be congratulated on retaining its splendid membership during the terrible depression through which we have passed. Although the Junior Order has suffered some from the loss of membership, it has not experienced anything like the loss of members as have other secret orders and fraternities in this State. Some of our other fine secret orders have suffered such tremendous losses in membership that they have almost been forced out of existence, but we are glad to say that the Junior Order has withstood the onslaught of the hard time and we are gradually regaining our lost membership and have done exceedingly well under present conditions and anticipate a great year for Juniorism during 1935.

In rendering this report, I would not feel that I had performed my full duty as a patriotic citizen and as an officer of this State Council if I did not call to the attention of the members of this great Order what I think is the outstanding menace of America
today--crime. A great many of the most dastardly crimes in this country have been committed by foreigners, unnaturalized immigrants who are not citizens of the United States, and who are in great many instances promoters of Bolshevism, Communism, Socialism and Fascism, all of which are traverses to the ideals of Americans are and tend to undermine the foundations and principles upon which America was built. Crime cost our Nation fourteen billions of dollars a year, eleven times the cost of the army and navy. That price is small compared to the shattering of the moral fabric of our people. America is the most criminal of civilized nations, and it is high time we are beginning to awaken to this cancer which is endangering the lives and property of our people. The criminal in this country knows that his chances are five to one that he will not be apprehended, fifteen to one that he will not be convicted, and one hundred to one that he will not pay the extreme penalty.

In this country one hundred murders occur every year for each 1,000,000 population, while in England the ratio is only nine to each million, which shows that Americans are careless and disrespectful of law. In England if a man kills his brother, he knows that within six weeks he will pay the extreme penalty. The crime plague is working havoc among our young people and every member of society must join in the fight to cure and prevent it. Our scarlet army of 400,000, who make their living mostly through crime, are mostly under twenty-three, one-third of them under twenty. It behooves our great Order to strive even harder than we have for proper public support for the education of the masses of the people, as education is the leading factor on which we can bring influence to bear to prevent America's greatest danger and disgrace--crime. The forming of ideals of the youth of the land is of supreme importance and is even more
significant than most State and National legislation, and the schools in our country are the greatest moulders of proper and lofty ideals for our young people and here’s hoping the Junior Order will continue its splendid support of the public school system in the future as in the past and that this hazard of crime with its horrors of degradation and destruction will soon be banished from our great Nation. We need an awakened and aroused public sentiment. When the people demand a stop to crime and that laws be enforced, these will come about. When public sentiment is aroused and the spirits of men stirred, our officers will soon understand that a public office is a public trust, and they will not dare to refuse to enforce the law and the law will not continue to fade from the sensibilities of our people as it seems to be doing at present. Too many people in this country are playing the abundant fool in their orgy of crime and their disrespect for law. The crime wave has reached alarming proportions, and not until sure and swift punishment follows the commission of a crime will the same be checked. Crime is the result of a lack of proper home training and education or the result of law unenforced or evaded. The duty to enforce the law rests upon every public official and the duty to obey it rests upon every citizen.

In conclusion I wish to kindly request and shall expect during my tenure of office next year as State Councilor of this great Fraternity, the undivided cooperation and support of each officer of the State Council and every individual member of the Order. Our Order is bigger than any one man, and no one individual or officer can make a success of it without the full cooperation of the members. A leader who attempts to go alone is like a man with one leg—a succession of jumps and not much progress. Cooperation will bring success and I am confident that we shall have the whole-hearted
cooperation of all of our members in furthering the cause of virtue, liberty and patriotism in South Carolina during the next year. I pledge to the State Council and the members of our Order my best efforts to steer this noble Order wisely, and endeavor at all times to work for its welfare and progress in our dear old Palmetto State.

J. Strom Thurmond