Fellow Democrats of Charleston County and Coastal Carolina:

I am very glad to have this opportunity to express my thanks to the many loyal and faithful men and women in this community who have helped and encouraged me so much in this campaign. I shall always be grateful to each and every one of you, and shall never forget the hard work which you have done and are doing in my behalf, and the friendly and cordial reception which I have received on every occasion that I have had the chance to visit this section of the State. Nothing encourages a candidate for public office more than the good wishes and the unselfish support of so many good people, and I want to say to you that I shall always keep faith with you in the conduct of the affairs of the office of Governor, which I am seeking.

To one who is vitally interested in the future of our State, it is a distinct privilege to speak to the people of Charleston and Charleston County, because everyone who is working for the development of South Carolina, whether he comes from the Piedmont, or the Pee Dee, the Low Country, or any other part of the State, knows that the development of our ports, and particularly the port of Charleston, is the principal key to our economic future. This is a job that the State of South Carolina must undertake, just as other Southern States, such as Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, have done for their ports, and the strongest blow which we as the united people of a great State can strike in the cause of State development is the building up of the port of Charleston until it has facilities second to none to discharge
its proper functions for its tributary area, stretching as it
does from the Atlantic Ocean to the great Middle West and even
beyond. If we work together, we shall once again see Charleston's
magnificent harbor full of shipping, and South Carolina's busi-
ness and industry will thereby stand on a competitive basis in
trade with the rest of the Nation and the markets of the world.
I pledge to you my every effort as Governor to make this program
a reality, and I will use every power and resource of that office
to that end. The most vital problem facing us in the next four
years is the future of our State. We stand on the threshold of
an opportunity which we shall never see again in our lifetime.
The post-war world offers unlimited possibilities to develop and
exploit our natural resources; to encourage industrial and
business establishment and location within our borders; to plan
and perfect transportation facilities and marketing methods to
increase the income of our farmers; and, in general, through
trade and commerce with the rest of the Nation and in world
markets, to strive to raise the economic level of our State and
of our people, and capitalize on our finest crop, our young
people as they come of age, so that they can stay here and con-
tribute to the future prosperity and welfare of South Carolina,
and will not be forced to go elsewhere to find the opportunities
in life to which they are justly entitled.

If we do this, we can quickly modernize and expand our
public school and college facilities; guarantee to our teachers
the compensation which they deserve and the future which their pro-
fection should enjoy; bring about the increase in the wages of our
working people and in the farm income of our State, without which
we shall never be a great State; broaden and expand our programs
of public education, public health, public welfare, and assistance to the aged, the blind, and our dependent children; and furnish to business, industry, and agriculture the conditions under which our system of free enterprise can best work and prosper.

Because I believe that the next four years are so critical and important to the future of our State and our people, I have resigned from the Circuit bench of South Carolina and have offered as a candidate for Governor. I did this because I feel that my 23 years of public experience have qualified me to furnish the service and leadership which we need now. The people have been good to me in the past, and have allowed me to serve them as a school teacher, county superintendent of education, State Senator, and Circuit Judge, and my experience in public affairs in these many varied kinds of service have given me the training to tackle the job which must be done in South Carolina in the next four years, if we are to take advantage of our opportunities.

I have entered this campaign in the same spirit that I volunteered my services to the Army the day after Pearl Harbor, because I want an opportunity to serve my State, and to do the job which has to be done. It shall be my purpose to do that job during the full term of 4 years which our Constitution gives to the Governor, and the people can depend on me being in there fighting for them the whole way.

Consistent with the limited time which I have, I want to discuss with you some of the matters which vitally concern us as a State.

One of the chief functions of the Governor is the
enforcement of the laws.

The people of our State are by nature God-fearing and law-abiding and have a keen and wholesome respect for law and order. They want and expect the laws of the State to be enforced by the Governor - they expect these laws to be enforced without fear or favor, without partiality or privilege. It is the duty of the Governor to see that this is done, and, as Governor, I shall do my best to co-operate with the local authorities in each County, City and Town to the end that the wishes of the people shall be carried out.

It is particularly important, in view of the increase in crime in other parts of the country, as the aftermath of war, that we have a Governor in the next four years who is determined to see that lawlessness shall not be tolerated in our State.

And when the courts have tried law violators, I shall not use the power of clemency to change their sentences or to spare them from the punishment which they have earned.

As Governor, I shall exercise the power of clemency only in those rare cases where it was intended by the Constitution to be used. The power of clemency was written into the constitution to serve the ends of public justice and not to enable a Governor to act like an Emperor or like a Santa Claus with it.

No one knows better than I do the great debt which the people of the State and Nation owe to the young men and women who entered the service of our country in the war. A veteran of three and a half years of Army Service myself, a large part of which was spent in both the European and Pacific Theatres, I saw with my own eyes their sacrifices and hardships. I will champion every worthwhile activity in their behalf. They should be given every
opportunity to catch up on their education, and the State should do its full part, in cooperation with the Federal Government, to help them make up for what they lost while at war.

There are many things that must be done for our farmers. We must build more all-weather farm-to-market roads. Rural electrification must be extended and made available to more country homes. Telephone lines must be extended to the homes in the country. The young men on the farms must have an opportunity to receive training to handle farm machinery, as we are coming into a machinery age. Better country schools with more vocational training must be provided. More canneries, freezer lockers, and dehydration plants must be established. More processing plants, storage plants, and better marketing facilities must be provided for the farmers. There must be an extension of the program to provide more pine seedlings to the farmers. Our farmers must organize more by joining the Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmer’s Union, or other farmers’ co-operative movements in order that they receive just treatment.

Our government should take into consideration farm labor in determining parity for farmers. This is only fair and just.

There is no reason why the South should be discriminated against in the matter of freight rates and the inequitable difference in freight rates paid in the South as compared with those in the North should be removed.

Lots of small industries are needed in South Carolina, and they should be so distributed as to give farm people work, as agriculture and industry go hand in hand.

Our State has made some progress toward making the lot of our school teachers less unfortunate, but much remains to be
done by the State to put the teaching profession in the position which it should occupy, and to compensate our teachers on a scale commensurate with the work which they do and their importance to society. I know their problems first hand and shall always be ready to work for and with them.

Another subject which should command the attention of every thoughtful citizen is that of public health. It is, I think, shocking to know that 33 per cent, 1/3, of our draftees were rejected as being physically unfit. There is a crying need for more hospitals, clinics, and health centers. We must have an expansion of these facilities for our people.

South Carolina is ready to develop in a real way if we only wake up to our opportunities and seize them. At the same time, we should not develop business and industry on the basis of offering cheap labor. Our labor is as good as that found anywhere, and is worth just as much.

Our industries are not processing enough of the State's raw products. The finishing work, with its higher wages and profits, has been done outside the State. This has been true of cotton textiles, lumber, and other leading products. Our production of cotton in this State is great, but more finishing and garment factories are needed here. We have a splendid natural resource in our forests. We produce the trees, but more industries are needed here to manufacture furniture, barrels, caskets, plywood, paper, and paper products. South Carolina has splendid kaolin and clay deposits, but more ceramics and brick industries should be brought here to produce the finished product. This State has excellent sand for the manufacture of glass, but most
of the glass factories are located elsewhere. There is no excuse in having cement blocks imported to this State. South Carolina produces large quantities of tobacco, but the cigar and cigarette factories are located chiefly elsewhere. We produce hundreds of tons of cotton seed, but the factories that manufacture food products, oils, varnishes, etc., are chiefly located elsewhere. Meat packing could become a substantial industry in South Carolina. These matters challenge us.

I have believed for years that more of our women should take part in the administration of our public affairs, not only in elections, but in service on our boards and commissions and in the major offices of local and State government. There are certain phases of governmental activity in which they are especially qualified to serve, and I shall see by the exercise of the appointing power that they are given substantial representation in our public activities.

I think that our State has a right to be proud of the record of our working men and women and of our freedom from industrial strife. Organized labor has done a fine job for the public and its membership in South Carolina, and the gains which they have achieved over the years must not be lost in the unsettled conditions of the post-war period. We must protect the American standard of living and must struggle to see that our workers enjoy its benefits, and thereby contribute much to the solution of many of our economic problems.

Time will not permit me to discuss in detail the shocking condition of affairs in our State government which has resulted
in the virtual usurpation by powerful legislators from a small county in the State of the functions of the executive branch of the Government as well. I have made my position plain on every stump in the State, and I tell you now that it is necessary that you have as Governor of South Carolina a man who has had experience in government and who has the desire and strength to throw off the yoke of those who wish to control our government for their own purposes. In order to accomplish this task - and I tell you truthfully that these men of greed and power are firmly entrenched - a Governor must have a background of experience and fair-dealing, and the ability and determination to get things done.

It is vital that the next Governor furnish effective leadership and not allow the functions of his office to be usurped or controlled by others. As Governor, I shall see that the office is conducted on the high plane on which it should stand.

These men have publicly shown that I am the candidate whom they do not want. They do not want me because they know I will be the Governor, and will not do their bidding or submit to their control. They realize that I am the one candidate who will have the experience and training in public affairs to break their grip on our government.

I promise the people that when I am elected Governor of South Carolina I shall use every resource at my command to restore the government to the people, where it belongs, and to use the powers of the Governor for the benefit of the people, and the people alone.

I have appreciated very much your attention this evening and sincerely solicit the vote and support of each and every Democrat in my race. Thank you and good evening.