SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS FUTURE

It is fitting that Spartanburg is the scene of a talk about South Carolina and its Future. Because here in Spartanburg county you have an almost perfect blend between agriculture and industry and because here you have the restless energy that will be needed to carry South Carolina to the economic heights that it deserves and that it must have.

The future of our state rests solely upon the determination and desires of our people. Make no mistake about that. We cannot look to Washington or to Northern capitalists or industrial leaders to shape the future of South Carolina. We must do for ourselves. We must become our own leaders and we must map the course that we are going to follow.

It is true that we can properly benefit and profit by the leadership from other sections and that we can eagerly accept assistance from Washington or elsewhere but the salvation of our people and our state rests ultimately upon us.

What, I ask you leaders in commerce, in industry and in agriculture, are we going to do about it? Are we going to remain complacent and satisfied just because most of us have enough to eat and enough to keep us comfortable? Are we going to close our eyes to the plight of those who live marginally? Are we going to adopt an attitude of indifference and accept whatever developments come to us?

Such attitudes would doom South Carolina for a generation to stagnation and to defeat of any chance of progress. Scattered around South Carolina there are example of communities which have elected to do nothing: they are, indeed, stagnating. Fortunately there are others which have exactly the opposite attitude and which, as surely as day follows the night, are progressing.

I am afraid that too many of us believe that progress can be an instantaneous thing. We want to push a button and have wealth and comfort and immediate results. That, of course, is an idea that is foolish. Results do not come immediately. They ordinarily result from careful planning and careful thought when leaders of today set up firm bases for the future.
What are those bases? Without making any effort at naming them in the order of their importance, I will offer some suggestions about them.

Our tax structure should be sound. It should not be punitive. Since most of the state's income now is derived from income and license taxes, which are basically sound and which are not exorbitant, I like to think that we do have today a tax structure that should be acceptable to agriculture and to industry alike. There are, unfortunately, numerous examples of local oppressive taxes but that is a matter for local communities to correct. If they want to shatter their own chances for economic development there is little that the state as a whole can do about the attitude.

And there is the question of friendly attitude. That, of course, is tied in with taxes but it also goes much further than that. Industries have been attracted to a community merely by a friendly smile or an enthusiastic handshake. This friendly attitude should extend to helpfulness, particularly among our own people. I know that numerous small industries have been started in Spartanburg since the war, but don't you think that some have failed at their inception just because the men and women who could really assist have been too deeply interested in their own personal or selfish affairs?

Local interest, manifested by real assistance, can do much toward maintaining and extending cooperation that is essential to any new enterprise.

Progress needs governmental aids. I do not mean governmental interference or meddling. Government should provide for its citizens services and functions less expensively than individuals could secure those same services. When governmental expense exceeds that of private enterprise, except for proper control over privileges, then governmental direction and control should cease.

In the Clemson college extension service we have a perfect example of what I mean. This service provides real, genuine assistance to agriculture in the state. It conducts experiments and makes available the results and recommendations far cheaper than individual planters or groups of farmers could do on their own. It and its work
have solid acceptance from agriculture. This function of government is readily accepted even by those hardy individuals who want to have little or no direction from the top.

In the same way, it is proper and beneficial for the state to assist industry and commerce. Fortunately we do have now the organization which can perform those functions. The state research, planning and development board, which has been in existence less than two years, has correlated the activities of half a dozen overlapping state agencies and has assisted in getting for South Carolina many advantageous industries.

Some of these have been outside developments. Outside capital and outside management have come to South Carolina because of the board's program and because of its energies. They will be extremely helpful in establishing the proper balance between industry and agriculture. But of equal, if not greater importance, is the birth of many small local enterprises which have been guided into existence by this board. Many of our communities have industrial development boards which function locally in the same manner as does the state board.

What I am trying to explain is that frequently there is a great need for the government to be of real assistance to its people. I hope that these examples of planning for the future will continue to benefit South Carolina. What could be better than for an agency to be helping agriculture on one hand supplementing the work of another agency which has as its primary purpose the assistance of industry and the establishing of an over-all planning program for the entire state?

Yes, South Carolina is on the way. We need to continue our general policies of general assistance. And we need to emphasize more and more the importance of diversification.

Spartanburg county is a true example of diversification which has begun but which has not come to its full fruition. Your great textile mills turn out millions of yards of cloth and finished goods but not until recently has there been much progress made in the actual fabricating of garments from that cloth. You, like many other communities, are now entering this final industrial step. Not so long ago, the cotton mills of this state produced, in the main, coarse un-
finished goods. As our management and our workers gained new skills, we went into the production of finer goods. We stopped sending all of our gray cloth to New England for finishing. We did the job ourselves.

Now, South Carolina and Spartanburg are taking the final step. We are completing the processing of cotton from the fields, through the gins, through the spinning and weaving mills, through the finishing and dyeing plants, through the garment factories to the counters of our stores. We need now to do this in other industries. In recent years, there has developed much processing of wool in South Carolina. This trend must not be interrupted. And we must diversify to the extent that we secure industries that have no connection with the textile field. We want complete diversification.

In agriculture, too, Spartanburg, is a leader. Twenty years ago, your principal crop was cotton. For 100 years that had been true. Now your peach crop, developed because of the foresight of a small group of earnest men, is so tremendous that it dwarfs the production of the rest of South Carolina and brings to Spartanburg each year uncounted advantages. I am sure that your lands and your farmers are fully capable of diversifying your agriculture even further. Many of your farmers have turned to livestock and to dairying. This trend should continue.

What I have said about Spartanburg, can rightly be said about other cities and counties of the state. Orangeburg county, which has the highest dollar volume of agriculture production of any in the state and which is one of the national leaders, right today is in the midst of an industrial drive to balance its economy and to increase its prosperity.

The results being secured by these two entirely different counties demonstrate that all of South Carolina can do these things. The Piedmont and the low-country both have advantages which must be capitalized and which can be used to make both sections economically sound. Spartanburg has one of the highest percentages of white people of any in the state; Orangeburg is just the reverse since it has more than 60 per cent negro population. Spartanburg is urban in its
population; Orangeburg is rural.

Consequently there can be no excuse from any county, no matter how burdened it is with low-income groups; no matter how concentrated its sources of income, for its failure to progress.

There are many other examples that I could cite to show you conclusively that actually there is little to choose from in the various regions of our state. We are all one people. What one county or one community can accomplish, the others can achieve. Let no one cry: "But we are poor and can't help ourselves". That attitude is a weak and outworn excuse for laziness, for indifference, for the laissez-faire stand-patism that must be eradicated from South Carolina.

Now how can the state government, in addition to the examples I have mentioned, assist in building a great future for South Carolina?

I am committed to a planned reorganization of our state government. As I said in my inaugural address "No one can seriously question the need of combining and consolidating many of our state functions and the agencies which perform them. Nor will anyone seriously deny that efficient public administration will thus be promoted and that public funds, now going to overhead, will be made available to expand the benefits which our people justly look to government to provide...

"I believe that this can be accomplished through the enactment by the general assembly of legislation which would prohibit the overlapping and duplication of state agencies and public services; which would lay down the criteria to be applied to determine when such conditions exist; which would establish a commission composed of persons chosen by the house, the senate and the governor, to determine the existence of the facts laid down by the general assembly and which would authorize the governor, by executive order, to provide for consolidation or abolition of any state agency, on any part of its functions, upon the certification to him by such commission, that such action should be taken under the mandate of the general assembly."

I have urged the general assembly to take immediate steps to streamline our government and make it the workable instrument of public
service that it should be.

I have urged—and I again advocate—that the assembly make provisions for the handling of local matters by the county delegations at home, rather than cluttering up the assembly with detailed local work.

I think that a merit personnel system will promote the efficiency of the departments of the state government. I think that bothersome taxes, which produce little revenue, should be eliminated. I think that a new constitution would do much to help carry out these proposals and I believe that the legislature should set in motion the necessary machinery to provide for a new constitution.

My administration as governor of South Carolina is just beginning. I think that we have made some progress to assure the bright future of South Carolina. I know that a lot of difficult and hard work lies ahead because unfortunately there remain in high places in our government selfish, smart individuals whose main concern is personal gain rather than public profit. I think that these men will pass from public life as soon as the electorate is shown how they put selfish interests before public progress. I see many pieces of evidence that the electorate is waking up to the cruel fact that it has been duped for many years by false leaders.

All of this planning will take some time for it to be accomplished. We cannot achieve in a year what has needed to be accomplished for 20 years. But, with the guidance and cooperation and assistance from people such as you here tonight, it can be accomplished speedily.

I call upon you and upon all good citizens of South Carolina to help your honest and sincere leaders give the state honest and sound government and to help them build a foundation which future generations will use to climb to higher and higher economic and spiritual levels.

As I said in the beginning, the future of our state rests solely upon the determination and desires of our people. I say to you again that your elected leaders need your guidance and assistance to carry out this determination and this desire to make the future South Carolina the rightful leader in these United States.