Remarks on Opening of Radio Station WSAV in Savannah

ANN: Now we present a transcribed welcome to Radio Station WSAV by Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who was a soldier in the First Army and the 82nd Airborne Division and participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. Governor Thurmond began his four-year term of office this past January.

GOVERNOR THURMOND: It is a genuine pleasure for me to take part in the ceremony opening Radio Station WSAV in Savannah. I only regret that my official duties as Governor of South Carolina prevent my being in Savannah in person for this occasion.

During the past three decades, from the time when it was an experience we bragged about to get Pittsburgh or New York on one of the old sets, we have seen radio broadcasting grow into a gigantic industry. It has been interesting to me to see the great expansion of radio broadcasting companies in this country in the two years since the war ended. Particularly in the South has this been so. This is a healthy sign, a sign of growth. I recall very well the days of 1939, when one radio station in a city the size of Columbia was thought to be enough, to be about all that such a city could support. How wrong we were! In Columbia we now have four radio stations. In Charleston we also have four. In Greenville, to cite another instance, we have three. From a commercial standpoint, all of our radio stations in these cities seem to be flourishing. From a programming standpoint, no one can deny that these increased facilities have resulted in better service by all radio stations in South Carolina. I am sure that the same situation will be true in Savannah, now that WSAV is on the air. We, in South Carolina, are particularly glad to welcome another station in Savannah. We South Carolinians will profit from it almost as much as you Georgians.

Since I came back from overseas, I have been tremendously impressed by the magnificent job radio is doing in keeping the public informed in these uncertain
times. The entertainment, musical, and educational programs which WSAV broadcasts will add a great deal to the enjoyment of the people of coastal Carolina and Georgia.

Good luck to Radio Station WSAV! Congratulations to the people of Savannah and Georgia! Long may Radio Station WSAV broadcast in the public interest and interest of all the people.