STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON SOUTHERN FREIGHT RATE REDUCTIONS. AUGUST 22, 1947

The day of August 22, 1947, will go down in the history of South Carolina and the South. On that day, the reduction of freight rates in the South and the raising of freight rates in the North, which were ordered by the United States Supreme Court in its decision in the Southern Governors' Freight Rate Case, will go into effect.

The unfair discriminatory freight rates which have benefited the North at the expense of the South ever since the War Between the States are now on the way out. We have never been able to see the justice in regulations which required us to pay more for the same services than other States. We have abundant labor supply, an excellent climate, and will soon have an adequate supply of power and these with equalization of freight rates should lead many new industries to establish themselves in South Carolina.

We of the South are far from satisfied with the situation as it holds today. We intend to prosecute our fight for absolute equality of freight rates vigorously and continuously. We do not wish the South to fatten at the expense of any other section of our Nation. Conversely, we will not be content for other sections to fatten at our expense.

On July 25, I called the attention of the Freight Rate Committee of the Southern Governors' Conference to the serious problem of the uniform classification system. At my suggestion the committee has agreed to employ a technical expert to represent us at all hearings until this problem has been settled in a fair and equitable manner.

Now, as we begin marching forward to new fields of industrial development, I repeat what I have often said before: "The South is no longer the Nation's Number I economic problem; it is the Nation's Number I economic frontier."