LABOR DAY STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR J. STROM THURMOND

For Release Saturday, August 30, 1947.

Day after-tomorrow, Monday, September 1, 1947, is Labor Day. This day is set apart from all other days of the year as a festival time for all people who work. It is now 60 years since Labor Day was first established as a legal holiday. Now, as then, we pay tribute to those who labor. They are the builders of our Nation.

It is gratifying to me to know that the relations between labor and management in South Carolina have been cordial for the past several years and are so today. During the war, and during the past two critical years since victory, we were more fortunate than many of our sister States. From 1943 until July 1, 1947, there were only 47 strikes, involving 9,424 workers, in South Carolina. This speaks well for labor. This speaks well for management.

It is interesting to note how labor and management have profited mutually during the past six years in South Carolina. In 1939-40 the manufacturing establishments of our State employed 130,307 men and women who, at an average annual wage of $767.58 produced $445,083,566 in goods. In 1945-46 employment had risen to 156,560. The annual wage was $1,477.47. The value of goods produced was $1,111,493,397.

I am glad to be able to report that the outlook for further industrial development is very encouraging. During the next twelve months, about $114,000,000 will be spent in expanding the State’s present industrial plant. During the same period, an additional $75,000,000 will be spent in constructing new plants. These new and expanded facilities will give employment to approximately 25,000 persons.

In my belief, we are approaching a more profitable era. Let us South Carolinians go into it with the same spirit we had during the war -- the determination to work for the common good in an atmosphere of faith and decency.
For Release Saturday, August 30, 1947.

Day after tomorrow, Monday, September 1, 1947, is Labor Day. This day is set apart from all other days of the year as a festival time for all people who work. It is now 50 years since Labor Day was first established as a legal holiday. Now, as then, we pay tribute to those who labor. They are the builders of our Nation.

It is gratifying to me to know that the relations between labor and management in South Carolina have been cordial for the past several years and are so today. During the war, and during the past two critical years since victory, we have been more fortunate than many of our sister States. From 1945 until July 1, 1947, there were only 47 strikes, involving 9,494 workers, in South Carolina. This speaks well for labor. This speaks well for management.

It is interesting to note how labor and management have profited mutually during the past six years in South Carolina. In 1939-40 the manufacturing establishments of our State employed 150,307 men and women, at an average annual wage of $757.50, produced $483,985,000 in goods. In 1945-46 employment had risen to 155,686. The annual wage was $1,477.47. The value of goods produced was $1,211,488,207.

I am glad to be able to report that the outlook for further industrial development is very encouraging. During the next twelve months, about $114,000,000 will be spent in expanding the State's present industrial plants. During the same period, an additional $75,000,000 will be spent in constructing new plants. These new and expanded facilities will give employment to approximately 25,000 persons.

In my belief, we are approaching a more profitable era. Let us South Carolinians go into it with the same spirit we had during the war -- the determination to work for the common good in an atmosphere of faith and decency.