COLUMBIA, Sept. --Textron Southern, Inc., will operate two new garment plants at Batesburg and at Pickens, providing employment for more than 500 people, it was announced here today by Governor J. Strom Thurmond and the state research, planning and development board.

Governor Thurmond said he was delighted that a company as large as Textron Southern was continuing to expand in South Carolina.

The Governor said: "We are getting smoke stacks and I hope they continue to rise in South Carolina."

He said that he was doing everything possible to make government better in South Carolina so that economic development would continue.

J. H. W. Snead, who now lives at Anderson and will have general charge of Textron's garment operations in the state, reported that South Carolina was selected for the new plants because of its progressive state government, fine labor record and geographical location. He said that the company was confident that South Carolina workers were able to turn out quality garments.

Textron Southern now operates weaving, spinning and finishing plants at Anderson and Charlotte, N. C., in addition to the garment plants at Batesburg and Pickens.

The Batesburg plant is now employing between 50 and 60 persons, mostly women. As soon as the initial workers are trained, others will be employed until 250 people are at work. The plant is turning out pajamas. The company is leasing the building from the town's industrial committee.

At Pickens, a community organization known as the Pickens Industrial Development corporation is to erect the 25,000 square foot
building and expects to have it completed by January 1. Textron will lease the building from the community corporation. The type of garment to be made at Pickens has not been definitely decided but it will be some form of men's wear.

Both plants will be equipped with new machinery and they will be in addition to plants now being operated by Textron.

"South Carolina should be congratulated," Mr. Snead said, "on the very excellent State Research, Planning and Development Board. It is an organization of tremendous value to the state."

He praised Robert M. Cooper, board director. He said: "I have been in many states and I have had experience with many development boards but the one in South Carolina is the best I have ever seen. Mr. Cooper and others working for the Board seem to know everybody in the State and how to get things accomplished for new industries."

Mr. Cooper said that he was extremely pleased that Textron had selected South Carolina for its new plants and that the board would continue to assist Textron in its development program.

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