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SC GOVERNOR - 11/12/83
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1983

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HONORABLE
RICHARD WILSON RILEY, GOVERNOR

Senator Gressette, Speaker Schwartz, Distinguished
Platform Guests, My Friends:

On this very special occasion for me, for my wife, Tunky, and for my family, I would like to begin by saying to you, the people of South Carolina, thank you...thank you for what you have helped us to accomplish during the last four years...and thank you for the opportunity to continue in that service.

Today is one of those few moments when we can pause, take a look at where we've been, where we are, and where we may be headed. It's a time when we can feel the great heritage and tradition of this state as we think and plan for its future.

If I may, however, I'd like to take your attention for a few moments away from this place...away from this ceremony...away from government itself.

I would like you to think along with me about a young boy by the name of John Christopher Hayes, who was born Monday morning at 8:10 a.m. at McLeod Regional Hospital in Florence. There is nothing out of the ordinary about that; he's a fine healthy baby, and he has proud and happy parents - Johnny P. and Susan Hall Hayes of Cheraw. They have every reason to believe—as we do—that young John Christopher will have a long and productive life.

But maybe there is more to the story than the good wishes we feel on this happy occasion. You see, young John Christopher is going to be a child of the 1990s and a citizen of the twenty-first century. That means he is going to live in a world beyond our imagination. It will be a world where computers will be as common as telephones, where space orbit will be as common as interstate highways, where microchips will be as common as light bulbs.

But for all the technology, and for all the Buck Rogers-type conveniences, it will also be a world of other concerns. There will be concerns about whether our planet earth will be a safe place to live - will the water we drink, and the air we breathe be clean and pure? There will be concerns about whether our streets will be safe places to live - will we feel personally secure from crime in our day-to-day activities? There will be concerns about whether our international community will be a safe place to live - can you and I avoid the threat of nuclear destruction and achieve world peace?

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Above all, however, we wonder about people, and how well they will adapt to the new world ahead of us. We ask ourselves about John Christopher Hayes, born only two days ago, and whether he will be prepared for the world which awaits him. Ultimately, we ask ourselves—as a state, as a government, and as a people—whether we will do all we must to prepare him for that world - to give him a place in the sun.

Of course, these are not easy times to face the future. We live in the midst of a recession, and more than 160,000 South Carolinians are out of work today. People are worried about their property taxes, and businesses are worried about going broke. People are concerned about their safety, prisons are overcrowded and there seems to be less money to get important things done. People in general—and their government—are finding it tougher and tougher to make ends meet.

While it can still be said that the State of our State is fundamentally sound, South Carolinians today feel economically unsure of their future.

Another South Carolinian, Dr. Benjamin Mayes, spoke in another difficult era about the impact of hard times on people. He advised us that the great tragedy of life was not failing to reach our goals. "The tragedy," this great educator said, "lies in having no goals to reach."

Thus, as we hear the message all around us today—the message of the complexities of high technology and the message of hard times—we must also listen to the past, and we must direct our attention to the future. We must listen to the words of Dr. Mayes, and we must understand the unspoken words of John Christopher Hayes. We must not deprive ourselves of goals; we must not deprive future generations of their dreams.

I make those observations as one who has been blessed to serve as Governor for four years. I speak with the confidence of someone who has seen and learned first hand what the people of this state can do for themselves.

Four years ago, I stood at this podium, and we talked about our duty to seek certain important goals for South Carolina.

We talked about getting more merit—and less politics—into government, particularly when it came to decisions affecting people's pocketbooks. It was something the people wanted done, and it was done.

We talked about human rights and equal opportunity, and letting the Governor's Office itself be the means of opening the doors of government wider than ever to all people. It was something the people wanted done, and it was done.

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We talked about keeping South Carolina from becoming a nuclear waste dumping ground for an entire nation, and of developing a national policy for having all states share in the burdens of nuclear waste. The people wanted this done, and it was done.

We talked about putting the public back into the public schools and emphasizing early childhood education. The people wanted it done, and it was done.

We talked about controlling the size and cost of government, even if it meant cutting budgets and fiscally holding the line. It was something the people themselves wanted, and it was done.

Those goals—the goals for 1979—have now become the realities of 1983, and they are therefore no longer simply goals. They have become standards for the State of South Carolina, standards for you and for me, for future governors and future lawmakers - standards for our children and grandchildren. They are standards which must never be revoked, and standards by which we set higher and higher goals for the future.

So where do we go from here? How do we build a future for John Christopher Hayes with the limited economic resources of today. As in the past—as in the last four years—we do not do it with a great wealth of financial resources. We do it with the great wealth of human will and determination. In other words, we do it with the best source of strength South Carolina has - the people themselves. But those people must have hope.

We begin again by setting new goals. This time the goals of today, and the goals for the generation of John Christopher Hayes speak for themselves. We must decide what it will take to put this state back to work, and we must decide what it will take to assure that our people, old and young, are prepared to handle the kind of work that the future will demand. In other words, the goals of today and tomorrow can be reduced to two fundamental objectives; more jobs and better education.

First, let's talk about jobs, and we know they cannot be created overnight. In fact, we've done well for many years in South Carolina in attracting new and expanded industry and bringing new jobs to the state. But we now must broaden our approach. We must establish state policy which will create more jobs for our people - people who will be better trained and better educated.

And while we continue to bring our state into the economic mainstream of our nation—while we continue to upgrade the quality of our training programs—while we continue to raise the level of our productivity and technology—we cannot lose sight of another important factor. I'm talking about people who have

worked long and hard in our state, and who may not have a place in tomorrow's new technology. I'm talking about people who not only need the money and income from employment, but who also need the sense of dignity and self-worth which comes from working. I'm talking about people who may need re-training and re-education; but more than anything else, they need a job.

Henry Van Dyke once wrote:

“Heaven is blest with perfect rest,
But the blessing of earth is toil.”

I believe that. I believe that work is important to our state and to our communities and to our families and to each of us as individuals. If toil is our blessing, however, then education is the means by which we achieve long-term economic salvation for our state. That's not a new thought. For as long as anyone can remember, this state has always put education at the top of its priority list.

In recent years, we've worked harder and harder. In addition to the allocation of millions of dollars, the professional educators—the teachers, the superintendents, the administrators—have put forth a tremendous collective effort. And particularly during the four years of this administration—volunteers, parents and citizens in general—have pitched in with great effectiveness.

But for all these accomplishments, we must now do even better.

If we're going to build a future for the generation of John Christopher—if we're going to prepare this state for the twenty-first century—then we've got to work for an ever higher standard of education. We've got to guarantee, in a very short time, that he will have a safe and healthy learning environment from his earliest days. In a very few years, he will be entering kindergarten, and the school system itself. These are the years, the years immediately ahead, in which his future may well be determined.

We've got to think about more than minimum standards, and minimum competency. We must turn our thinking to maximum standards and maximum competency. We've got to think about standards of quality and excellence which can prepare him for life in a world more complicated and more demanding than we can imagine.

It's not enough to say to John Christopher Hayes that we will provide for him a good education, but only if times are good. It's not enough to tell John Christopher Hayes that we will do the best we can with what we have. We must tell him, and the thousands of youngsters of his generation that they will have an education which qualifies them for the jobs of the future whether we have

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the best of times, or the worst of times - regardless of the times. This must be our permanent standard.

In the final analysis, we must be able to say to the generation of John Christopher Hayes that jobs and education are more than goals for the people of South Carolina. They are so basic and fundamental that they go beyond a consideration of standards or objectives.

They should be viewed as nothing less than absolute birth-rights for every person born into this State—the birthright to work—and the birthright to learn.

It's in our hands—the people of this state. Regardless of economic conditions and limitations, we have the power to make it happen ourselves.

Without hesitation, I say to you today that if you, the people of South Carolina, want more jobs, it will be done. If you, the people of South Carolina want better education, then it will be done.

I ask of you today only one commitment. I ask that you please want it badly enough. Please decide in your own minds that a good job and a good education are important enough to insist upon. If that decision is made—if that commitment is made—then I say to you that it can—and it will—be done. This must be our common goal - our common dream.

Albert Schweitzer in discussing the Ten Commandments once wrote that there should have been an Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill my dreams."

I say to you that no shortage of money, no economic recession, no complexity of high technology, no struggle, however great it may appear, none of these challenges shall ever kill the dreams that you and I have for John Christopher Hayes and the people of South Carolina.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:45 P.M. the House, in accordance with the motion of Rep. O. PHILLIPS adjourned to meet at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1983

Thursday, January 13, 1983
(Statewide Session)

The House assembled at 10:00 A.M.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Rev. Dr. Alton C. Clark as follows:

We thank You, Heavenly Father, for new friendships in this place and for old friendships made stronger and more precious with the passing of each day. May we be willing to listen to one another, and above all else to hear the promptings of Thy voice. Enable us to heed the monitoring of the conscience planted within us by Your Divine hand. Spare us from wasting time on inconsequential matters. Inspire us to do with our whole strength the work committed to us by the people's vote, that we fail neither them nor You.

In the Name of the Master Workman we pray. Amen.

After corrections to the Journal of Tuesday and Wednesday's proceedings, the SPEAKER Pro Tempore ordered it confirmed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Rep. MANGUM, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 2068.—Rep. Schwartz: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 12-45-220, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE INVESTMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS BY A COUNTY, SO AS TO REMOVE FROM THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS THE REQUIREMENT THAT CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS INSTRUMENTALITIES BE FULLY GUARANTEED BOTH AS TO PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST BY THE UNITED STATES.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MANGUM, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 2086.—Rep. McLellan: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 12-29-325, SO AS TO EXEMPT MOTOR FUELS PURCHASED FOR AND USED IN STATE-OWNED SCHOOL BUSES AND IN STATE-OWNED ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE VEHICLES USED IN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FROM THE MOTOR FUEL TAX.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.