

EXECUTIVE ORDER AND DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

11/26/73

WHEREAS, there has been and continues to be a national energy crisis, and

WHEREAS, this crisis is presently most acute in shortages of middle distillate fuels, more commonly known as light heating oil and diesel fuel, and

WHEREAS, the present rate of consumption of gasoline by motorists in South Carolina accentuates the shortage of middle distillate fuels, and

WHEREAS, I have previously, by memorandum of November 7, directed that all State-owned motor vehicles be driven at a reduced rate of speed, and

WHEREAS, President Richard M. Nixon, in his telegram to the Governor of South Carolina on November 7, asked that I take all action to the extent of my authority to reduce the speeds of all motor vehicles in order to conserve our critically short supplies of energy and has asked the Congress for legislation to authorize the President to reduce speeds on a nation-wide basis, and the President has further directed in his message of November 25 that the production of gasoline shall be reduced by fifteen (15) per cent, and

WHEREAS, a nation-wide reduction of speed limits to fifty (50) miles per hour will achieve energy savings approaching one-quarter million barrels of fuel per day, and I deem it only appropriate that the State of South Carolina assume a leadership role in meeting this crisis as it has done in facing such crisis situations throughout the history of our Country,

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE POWERS VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND ACT NO. 128 OF 1973, AS SIGNED BY ME ON APRIL 14, I do hereby declare that in light of the above mentioned conditions a state of emergency exists in and throughout the State of South Carolina.

I do hereby order that until subsequently determined by me that the need for such restriction is no longer necessary, the State Highway Department is instructed

Carolina so that the maximum rate of speed is fifty (50) miles per hour, provided that trucks shall be allowed to travel at a rate of speed not to exceed fifty-five (55) miles per hour as recommended by the President.

The State Highway Patrol and all other law enforcement agencies charged with enforcing the traffic laws of the State are directed to charge and prosecute to the fullest any and all motorists in this State who travel in excess of the posted maximum speed limits; provided trucks shall be allowed to travel at a rate of speed not to exceed fifty-five (55) miles per hour.


All magistrates and other judicial officers who hold trials for those accused of violating the traffic laws are directed to determine guilt of those accused of speeding violations in accord with the posted maximum speed; provided trucks shall be allowed to travel at a rate of speed not to exceed fifty-five (55) miles per hour.

Rules and regulations to implement this Order and Declaration shall be issued from time to time as necessary.

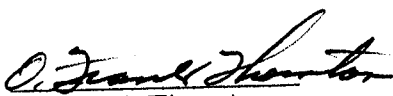
Enforcement of this Order and Declaration shall commence on December 15, ¹⁹⁷³~~1974~~, unless speeds are reduced on a nation-wide basis before that date and in accord with a Resolution of the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, of October 24, 1973, this Order shall remain in effect no longer than February 15, ¹⁹⁷³~~1974~~, unless extended by me, as Governor of South Carolina, or by the General Assembly.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina this 26th day of November, 1973.


John C. West
Governor of South Carolina

ATTEST:


O. Frank Thornton
Secretary of State