The Senate returned to the House with concurrence the following:

H. 1946.—Mr. Rudolph Mitchell: A Concurrent Resolution to fix Wednesday, January 19, 1966, immediately following the election of Circuit Judges, for the election of a Public Service Commissioner from the Second District to succeed the Honorable A. D. Amick whose term expires during the year 1966.

Received as information.

H. 1950.—Messrs. Connor, Hughes, Shuler, Yarborough, Kemp, H. F. Bell, Redfearn, Nunnery, Luther C. Wright, Jr., Folk, Rex L. Carter, Chapman, Fuller, Garrett, Granger, Huff, Hunt, Jenkins, Fred N. McDonald, Riley, Theodore, Rosen and Reynolds: A Concurrent Resolution to fix Wednesday, January 19, 1966, immediately following the election of a successor to the Honorable Thomas P. Bussey, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, to succeed the present Judges of the Circuits, all of whose terms of office expire in 1966.

Received as information.

H. 1964.—Messrs. Belser, Brockington, Cobb, Grant, Lourie, Heyward E. McDonald, McElveen, Medlock, Talbert and Yonce: A Concurrent Resolution to express the sympathy of the members of the General Assembly to the family of Mrs. Henry F. Hall, Sr. upon her passing.

Received as information.

MOTION PERIOD

The motion period was dispensed with on motion of Mr. VENTERS.

HOUSE STANDS AT EASE

On motion of Mr. HARRIS SMITH the House stood at ease subject to the call of the Chair.

THE HOUSE RESUMES

At 12:23 p.m. the House resumed, the Speaker in the Chair.
months. But challenging and perplexing problems such as school compliance and the voting rights law have failed to deter the strength or momentum of our forward movement.

Our people have wisely avoided adventures in futility, choosing instead to rely on the recourse of the law.

In the face of many trying situations, our state and local law enforcement officers have carried out their duties skillfully and effectively, and have earned a new level of respect and support from the people they serve.

During the course of an accelerating economic growth and transition in recent years, we have encountered many new problems and have moved to solve them.

Let me mention briefly some projects and programs which have been, and are being accomplished—and which will require your continued support:

Through an inter-agency effort and a series of searching conferences, the Schoolbook Commission has been brought into the administrative framework of the State Department of Education. Recommendations for further consolidation of our educational system will be forthcoming—possibly during this session.

A pilot program for adult basic and vocational education is being launched in the Greenville area. Through this project, we expect to determine specific approaches which will be required to prepare thousands of our underprepared adults for new job opportunities.

Our system of relatively uncoordinated Industrial Schools has been placed under one administrative directorship.

Working with the Medical College and the State Mental Health Commission, we have arrived at a tentative agreement under which the vital psychiatric residency program at State Hospital can be continued.

An in-service program of continuing education for our teachers is being developed by the Department of Education and the Educational Television Commission. As this program develops further, we are hopeful that teachers will be able to earn credit and individual salary adjustments by completing courses of self-improvement through ETV facilities in their local schools.

A similar in-service training program for law enforcement officers throughout the state is already in progress, and plans are in the making for a police institute training program in Columbia upon completion of the new SLED facilities.

To pinpoint and assess the significance of our valuable historic resources, a Division of Historical Resources has been set up in the Archives Department.

An Outdoor Recreation Division has been established to help capitalize fully on our many natural advantages.

In addition to establishing more effective continuing communications among our administrative agencies, we are benefiting from the regular advice and counsel of all Constitutional Officers through the newly-created Executive Council.

These are several examples of how the combined resources of existing agencies are being used to develop new programs where they are needed. They are forerunners of what should be a general re-definition of organizational responsibilities at the earliest possible time.

Accordingly, I recommend that the General Assembly move immediately to fill its vacancies on the Reorganization Commission. By starting its work at once, this Commission should be able to determine obviously needed changes that can be made without delay. Less obvious, but equally desirable reorganizational steps could then be completed by subsequent Legislatures on the basis of the Commission's continuing study.

Provisions for many of the programs which are vital to South Carolina's progress are contained in the budget which has been presented for your consideration. The budget, itself, clearly reflects the substantially increasing growth rate which we are continuing to experience.

Our forecast of economic and revenue prospects is based on national economic trends as well as the record of state revenue growth over a ten-year period.

It is our belief that this approach will enable us to arrive at more accurate revenue estimates from which to appropriate for the needs of the state on an annual basis. At the same time, we recognize that this kind of planning must provide for unpredictable dips that might occur in the economy from time to time.

It is for this reason that we are strongly recommending the establishment of a 10-million-dollar reserve fund, using 9-million dollars from the expected surplus for the current year, plus one-million already provided for this purpose.

I submit to you that this is a good, sound business move which—because of an unexpectedly high surplus developing in the current year—can be accomplished without infringing on much-
needed capital improvements or a reasonable return to the counties for school purposes.

Our state government can only be as good as the caliber of employees we have at every level of responsibility. The recommended increase in salaries for our state employees should be approved in the interest of keeping and attracting qualified people.

For a long time, we have discussed the desirability of a uniform system of classification and compensation for state employees. A committee made up of heads of several state departments has worked on this problem for several months. I hope this Legislature will adopt a system based on the plan which this committee will submit for your consideration later this month.

No amount of optimism about the expected benefits of our continuing economic growth can be justified without plans for substantial improvement in our overall program of publicly-supported education.

Primary consideration should be given to our teachers' salaries. We now have an opportunity to improve salary schedules in a way which has not been possible in recent years. The 10-million dollars recommended for this purpose, plus the amount added by the Ways and Means Committee, will allow us to compete favorably with our neighboring states.

I believe the quality of our instructional program will best be served by applying the increases on a scale that will provide larger percentage increases for those teachers who have earned a higher level of certification.

Equally important is the need to upgrade the education and skills of thousands of our people who are not now qualified for the growing number of jobs becoming available.

Unless we continue to provide a force of fully-trained, skilled workers, we cannot expect to sustain the record rate of industrial expansion which we experienced last year.

Educational leaders in every field are being called upon to work together for the development of a comprehensive vocational education program in the public schools and beyond.

The hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians over the age of 18 who have not finished school are the principal targets of a well-conceived program which the State Department of Educa-

tion is starting with the help of more than a million dollars in federal matching funds.

The effective blending of basic ability with a job skill is the primary aim of the Greenville pilot project which we referred to earlier. We're now in the final phase of developing a program through which we hope to make this kind of training available on a statewide basis with resources from the Economic Opportunity program.

The aim of this program will be to help the poor help themselves, instead of creating a vast new echelon of self-perpetuating administrative bureaucracy.

By approving recommended increases of about four-million dollars for our four-year colleges and universities, you will be providing mainly for larger enrollments, more faculty and normal salary increases. But the budget also includes funds to begin a much-needed expansion of our graduate and research programs.

It is heartening to know that our colleges and universities, for the most part, have not had to turn away qualified applicants because of a lack of instructional facilities; however, enrollments are at the straining point. And the number of young people reaching college age is accelerating steadily.

Through the reactivated Advisory Commission on Higher Education, we are undertaking an immediate survey to determine the needs of education beyond the high school level for the next ten years. The Commission is also analyzing funding practices with the aim of eliminating duplication and preventing unnecessary competitiveness.

I believe the members of this Assembly share my conviction that a more effective fiscal and administrative coordination must be achieved, either through this Commission, or by means of an overall Board of Regents.

Students in substantially increasing numbers are enrolling in our community supported University branches around the state for a two-year program of college parallel training. Entrance requirements will be lowered at some of these centers in September on an experimental basis. This will give late-maturing students, or those with marginal qualifications, an opportunity to prove themselves in a college environment, and will help to insure that no one is arbitrarily foreclosed from a higher education.

The proposed budget includes provisions for adequate state support of these centers on the basis of the number of pupils in
full-time enrollment. The Committee established last year to seek out the most appropriate two-year college program for South Carolina should be continued. This will give the members an opportunity to visit and examine a number of our own expanding centers, as well as other apparently successful systems in states which have resources and problems comparable to ours.

The need to maintain and intensify our total development effort is so obvious that it requires no extensive elaboration in this message.

Last year's record shattering growth of about 600 million dollars in new and expanding industry could be just a curtain-raiser for things to come, if we are awake in every area of governmental and economic responsibility to the full measure of our potential.

The success of our effort thus far has been due to an attitude of alert flexibility, which has enabled our Development Board to apply effort and direction when and where it is most needed.

The promotion of tourism deserves, and is getting increasing attention. In addition to the Historic Resources and Outdoor Recreation Divisions provided for in the budget, the State Highway Department plans to erect welcome signs on the major highway arteries leading into the state, and to construct Tourist Information Centers at the most strategic points on our Interstate System.

Now that we have completed a successful observance of the Civil War Centennial under the most able leadership of Colonel John May, we are looking ahead to 1970—the 300th anniversary of the founding of Charlestown and the settlement of the Carolinas. By starting now on an imaginative development and promotion of this event, the eyes of millions of people can be turned to our state.

Encouraging developments in agriculture during the past year—including the highly successful cotton experiment conducted by Clemson and the Coker Company, the expansion of grain elevator facilities at the Port of Charleston and plans for developing two-year, post-high school courses in agricultural technology—have stimulated a new interest in our farm potential.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent in trying to solve the dilemma of milk production and marketing. Although some improvement has been noted in recent months, further action is needed to protect the investment of our milk producers within the framework of the law. This problem deserves, and will receive our continuing attention.

Thus far, the findings of the new Agriculture Study Committee have pointed to the need for more basic research, improved marketing programs and a greater degree of overall coordination.

In accordance with preliminary recommendations, a knowledgeable agriculture specialist will be added to the State Development Board. Other recommendations of the Committee deserve your serious consideration. In view of the significance of agriculture to our future, this committee should be continued.

Let me focus your attention now on what has grown to be a major blemish on the face of our state—the tragic and costly problem of our highway accident and death rate.

Last year's totals—although they were down from the previous year, and reflected an improvement in deaths per total miles traveled—offer no reason for complacency.

The situation calls for an ever-expanding effort in education, engineering and enforcement.

Programs adopted last year should become increasingly beneficial in the months and years ahead, if further emphasized and expanded.

Vehicle inspection by patrolmen is now reaching an average 24-thousand vehicles per month. An average nine-thousand are being found defective, with owners required to demonstrate that necessary repairs have been made within a specified time.

Driver education is now reaching about 12-thousand students in 200 schools, supported by the new program authorized last year.

A pilot series of traffic safety and driver education programs being produced by ETV in cooperation with the American Automobile Association should prove to be a valuable tool.

The newly-formed Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, assisted by the Traffic Safety Council, is formulating an ACTION program which will offer guidelines for immediate and long-range needs.

There are already some facts that stand out glaringly, however, as we search for the principal elements involved in our highway accident and death rate.

Speed has been determined to be a factor in more than 85 per cent of the fatal or injurious accidents which have occurred in the last two years.
Recklessness has been identified as a factor in about 12 per cent of those accidents. Driving under the influence is listed as a contributing factor in about nine per cent—probably helping to account for at least 60 deaths last year.

These are facts that cannot be ignored at the risk of the safety of thousands of innocent people who attempt to observe the reasonable rules of the road while traveling our public highways each day.

I therefore call on this Assembly, all law enforcement agencies and the people of our state to declare war on speed, recklessness and intoxication—the senseless and indefensible killers on our highways.

The following are some steps which I believe should be taken to strengthen our position immediately:

—Authorization for the Highway Department to establish realistic, absolute speed limits based on engineering surveys.
—Amendment of the code to provide for automatic license suspension and stiffer penalties on first-offense convictions for reckless driving with suspensions for extended periods on second and subsequent convictions.
—Adoption of sections of the Uniform Vehicle Code pertaining to chemical testing for alcohol content.
—Revision of the point system to assess more points for hazardous driving violations which are contributing substantially to our accident and death rate.
—Adoption of certain minimum penalties in the way of fines or imprisonment for all hazardous driving violations, with provisions to prohibit suspension of penalties.

In the days, weeks and months ahead, we will be calling on all South Carolinians and law enforcement officers in every field of activity to join in an intensified effort to make our highways safe. All of our courts at every level will be encouraged to join with us to assure both uniformity and surety of punishment for those who violate our traffic laws.

In connection with our total effort, I recommend a study of the handling of traffic cases in our courts to determine ways of achieving greater consistency and uniformity in the procedures of trial and punishment.

In the meantime, as they move toward completion of current Inter-state projects, our highway officials will be devoting increasing attention to improving our primary and secondary system of highways.

A study made during 1964—our worst year—showed the rate of fatal accidents per 100-million miles traveled on our Interstate highways to be about half the rate for our entire system. These facts emphasize the need for further efforts to improve safety features and relieve crowded conditions on our primary and secondary highways as we move to strengthen the enforcement of our traffic laws.

Vital programs for assisting our mentally and physically handicapped and rehabilitating the inmates of our prison and correctional system deserve our continued support. As we strengthen these programs through our own resources and other available funds, we will be meeting our obligations today and preparing to handle the problems of tomorrow.

Several other matters deserve your attention and action during this session.

Years of study have gone into the development of a Uniform Commercial Code which has been introduced for your consideration. Forty-one states have already adopted the Code. The Court of Claims is interpreting all government contracts in accordance with its provisions. I strongly recommend its passage.

The Electric Cooperatives of our State have indicated their willingness to pay a fair and equitable tax. I hope this General Assembly will adopt necessary legislation in this session, so that we can begin to use these additional resources for vital public needs.

Legislation should be enacted to bring all South Carolina lending businesses under the regulatory provisions of the Board of Bank Control and to provide for a reasonable and realistic rate schedule.

At the beginning of the Extraordinary Session last month, I recommended:

—That the General Assembly adopt its own constitutionally acceptable plan of apportionment for the Senate, rather than let the court do it for us.
—That our congressional district lines be redrawn to achieve a more equitable population ratio.
—That a committee be established immediately to begin studying the effects of apportionment on county government and to
make recommendations for developing a strong and uniform but flexible system.

—That a commission be created to make a thorough study of our Constitution and recommend a proper course to follow in an effort to bring it in line with present day conditions.

I do not believe our obligations to our people and their future will be fully met until we have taken action on these matters which are so vital to the continuity of our government.

By dedicating ourselves to the accomplishment of these tasks, 1966 will be recorded as a year of significant progress and achievement.

Thank you.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE CITADEL

The Reading Clerk of the Senate read the Concurrent Resolution.

S. 459.—Messrs. Legare and Stevens: A Concurrent Resolution to provide for the election of members of the Board of Visitors of The Citadel to succeed The Honorable David E. McCuen, Jr., resigned, and The Honorable J. M. J. Holliday, whose term expires in 1966, immediately following the address of The Honorable Robert E. McNair, Governor, on Wednesday, January 12, 1966.

The President Pro Tempore announced that nominations were in order for a member to the Board of Visitors of The Citadel to succeed the Honorable David E. McCuen, Jr., resigned.

Senator Legare on behalf of the entire Charleston Delegation nominated Honorable Henry Deas of 70 Murray Blvd., Charleston to succeed Mr. McCuen.

Senators Waddell, Jessen and Dennis seconded the nomination of Mr. Deas.

On motion of Dennis nominations were closed and with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

Whereupon, the President Pro Tempore announced that Mr. Deas was duly elected for the term prescribed by law.

The President Pro Tempore announced that nominations were in order for a member to the Board of Visitors of The Citadel to succeed the Honorable J. M. J. Holliday.

Senator Stevens nominated Mr. J. M. J. Holliday of Galivants Ferry.

Messrs. HYMAN, HARWELL and Senator Waddell seconded the nomination of Mr. Holliday.

On motion of Senator Waddell nominations were closed and with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

Whereupon, the President Pro Tempore announced that Mr. Holliday was duly elected for the term prescribed by law.

ELECTION OF A TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Reading Clerk of the Senate read the Concurrent Resolution.

S. 460.—Mr. Bristow: A Concurrent Resolution to provide for the election of a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina from the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which office is now occupied by the Honorable T. Eston Marchant, to fill the term which will expire on March 31, 1970, and to set the time for the election as that immediately following the address of the Honorable Robert E. McNair, Governor, on Wednesday, January 12, 1966.

The President Pro Tempore announced that nominations were in order for a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina from the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Senator Bristow nominated the Honorable T. Eston Marchant of Columbia to succeed himself.

Mr. HYMAN and Senator West seconded the nomination of Mr. Marchant.

On motion of Senator West nominations were closed and with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

Whereupon, the President Pro Tempore announced that Mr. Marchant was duly elected for the term prescribed by law.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WINTHROP COLLEGE

The Reading Clerk of the Senate read the Concurrent Resolution.