

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Greenville News, Greenville Piedmont, and Greer Citizen.

Be it further resolved that a suitable copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the family of the late T. Manly Hudson.

The Resolution was adopted.

RETURNED WITH CONCURRENCE

The Senate returned to the House with concurrence the following:

H. 1001.—Messrs. Blatt and Hollings: A Concurrent Resolution inviting His Excellency, James F. Byrnes, Governor to address the General Assembly in Joint Session at 12:30 o'clock, p. m., on Wednesday, January 14, 1953.

Received as information.

MOTION PERIOD

On motion of Mr. HORNE the motion period was dispensed with.

THE HOUSE RECEDES

At 11:16 a. m. the House on motion of Mr. VERNER recessed.

JOINT ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR JAMES F. BYRNES

At 12:30 p. m. the Senate appeared in the Hall of the House.

The President of the Senate called the Joint Assembly to order and announced that it had convened under the terms of a Concurrent Resolution adopted by both Houses.

The Clerk of the House read the Concurrent Resolution:

H. 1001.—Messrs. Blatt and Hollings: A Concurrent Resolution inviting His Excellency, James F. Byrnes, Governor to address the General Assembly in Joint Session at 12:30 o'clock, p. m., on Wednesday, January 14, 1953.

Governor Byrnes was escorted into the Hall of the House by a Committee composed of Senators White, Morrah and Morrison and Messrs. HARRELL, ROGERS and COKER.

The President of the Senate introduced Governor Byrnes, who then addressed the Joint Assembly as follows:

Every index by which progress can be measured furnishes proof that South Carolina is progressing. In the field of agriculture our people have mastered the problem of mechanized farming. We have diversified our crops. The present per capita income of the man on the farm in South Carolina is higher than ever before in our history.

Labor-management relations in South Carolina are the best of any State in the Union. The Commissioner of Labor reports that only three ten-thousandths of one per cent of man hours employment were lost due to labor disputes for the year ending July 1, 1952. The loss was less than in 1951.

The accident rate in the textile industry of this State is now only one-half the national average.

Recently announced was a reduction of rates in workmen's compensation insurance which will save employers \$800,000 annually.

Industrial Development

In the last seven years a total of 993 new industrial plants and more than 1,100 expansions of existing plants have been constructed at a cost of \$792,704,000. This does not include the Atomic Energy Plant.

The industrial development has provided more than 95,000 new jobs with \$238,000,000 in additional wages. It is no longer necessary for young men and women to leave the State in order to secure employment.

During recent weeks there has been evidence of greater confidence on the part of investors throughout the country in new enterprises. The States of the South are engaged in keen competition for new industries. Your Research, Planning and Development Board has induced many industrialists to consider locating plants in South Carolina and Board officials have high hope of success in their efforts.

I urge continued support of the work of this Board which by means of an intelligent promotional program is encouraging our industrial growth and promoting the tourist business which has proved highly profitable in other States.

SC Governors - Messrs.

SC STATE LIBRARY

NOV 19 1953

Your Board is able to offer new industries loyal, productive employees as our greatest asset. Next to this, our strongest appeal is the soundness of our State Government.

State Finances

Because of the wisdom and conservatism of the members of the General Assembly, the credit of our State has never been higher in financial circles. The result is that whenever the State issues bonds for highway or school purposes, we are able to secure funds at a low rate of interest.

This year our revenues exceed our expenditures. But we must ever have in mind our experience in 1950. At the beginning of that fiscal year we had a surplus of \$4,000,000. There followed a recession in business and revenues fell off. Because appropriations did not fall off, by May, 1950, the General Assembly faced a deficit.

To balance the budget as required by the Constitution, the General Assembly had to levy the emergency increased tax upon gasoline, cigarettes, and beer. That experience will convince all prudent and responsible legislators that we should not appropriate our last dollar—we must have in the treasury a surplus for the proverbial rainy day.

Our revenues have increased, but at the same time the people are demanding of the Legislature new and greater services. We cannot furnish even the services to which the people have been accustomed except by increased appropriations.

Inflated prices affect your government as well as individuals. The increased cost of living has been particularly burdensome to salaried people. State agencies have found it extremely difficult to retain efficient employees because private enterprise offers them greater compensation. The budget that will be submitted to you will not recommend a blanket increase but will recommend an increase for most employees.

You have a dual responsibility. You legislate for your respective counties, but your primary duty is to legislate for the State.

State Hospital

At the last session of the General Assembly I called attention to the report of a committee composed of members of the Senate

and House which recommended a program for the improvement of conditions at the State Hospital for the mentally sick. The program recommended by that committee was estimated by engineers and architects to require an expenditure of approximately \$17,000,000.

Even though I realized the necessity for the improvements recommended, I did not think it practical to appropriate that amount of money at that time. I asked appropriations only for the most urgent needs. Most of the members of the General Assembly visited the Hospital. They saw the deplorable conditions and granted the request.

Wisely, the Board of Regents has proceeded cautiously. After visiting institutions in other States, they had plans drawn. Now that materials are available, within a week bids will be opened for the improvements authorized.

Two new buildings were authorized because the existing buildings had been condemned as unsafe for occupancy. But merely replacing old buildings does not increase the facilities necessary to take care of the constantly increasing population of your State Hospital.

Today there are 5,600 people in the white and colored hospitals. Unless we do more, the hospitals will continue to be about the most overcrowded mental hospitals in the United States.

Negro Training School

In addition to the improvements necessary at the mental hospitals for white and colored patients, it is necessary that we provide a training school for mentally defective Negro children similar to the training school we have for white children at Clinton.

At this time mentally defective Negro children are sent to the State Hospital. That is wrong. There is no hope that these children can by treatment be restored to society. Yet, they must be restrained as a protection to society. At a training school they can be made comfortable and many can work.

We should provide a training school where Negro children can receive training similar to that afforded to white children at Clinton.

In addition to more beds we must provide a church at each of the hospitals. I know of no other community in South Carolina with a population of 5,600 people without a place of worship.

Since 1943 we have tried to secure voluntary contributions for this purpose. We received only \$30,000 which in 1947 was matched by the Legislature with an appropriation of \$30,000. However, it will cost an additional \$150,000 at each hospital to build a church.

These 5,600 are the forgotten people. They have no lobbyist to offset the efforts of lobbyists, who would divert revenues to other governments, to raise the salaries of employees or reduce the taxes of people who by the grace of God are mentally and physically well and able to take care of themselves. These people look to you and me. They should not look in vain.

Improvements Appropriation

For these permanent improvements I recommend out of surplus funds an appropriation of \$5,000,000. Detailed recommendations will be furnished your committees.

Building Committee

I recommend that the Legislature authorize me to appoint a building committee composed of the chairman of the Board of Regents having charge of these two institutions as ex-officio chairman and four other persons. These four appointees should be businessmen and men with experience in construction projects. They should have complete control of the building program for these institutions authorized by the last General Assembly and by this one.

This recommendation does not imply any lack of confidence in the capable and patriotic members of the Board of Regents. I would not want a board composed exclusively of businessmen to direct the normal operations of the State Hospital and Training School. But a construction program of this magnitude requires the services of men who have had training and experience in that field.

Education Program

I cannot give too much praise to the last General Assembly for its inauguration of a revolutionary educational program. South Carolina now has 103 instead of 1,220 school districts. The one-teacher and two-teacher schools will soon disappear. Those schools in rural areas forced parents ambitious for their children to move to town. Now the children who live in the rural areas will be given educational opportunities equal to the children in the cities and towns.

The other objective of the program—to equalize facilities for the races—is being achieved. The courts that have thus far passed upon the litigation seeking to abolish segregation have favorably commented upon our sincere efforts to comply with the law which requires equal facilities.

We have done it because it was right. It was also wise because it has helped us in our efforts to uphold the provision of our State Constitution that the races shall be kept separate in our public school system.

The program has been a serious financial burden because we have now been called upon to do in a few years what should have been done through the last fifty years.

It has caused inconvenience to many. It has lessened the prestige of some individuals and some communities. But our people realized that it was for the welfare of the children of this State and with intelligence and patriotism they have made the necessary personal sacrifices.

Proof of this intelligent and patriotic attitude of the people is found in the results of the primary election last July. That election was held at a time when in many counties important questions affecting the schools had not been settled or if settled, the people had not become accustomed to the changes. Nevertheless, 82 per cent of the members of the General Assembly who offered for re-election were successful, compared with about 79 per cent in 1950.

Sixteen Senators sought re-election. Twelve were re-elected, nine of them without opposition. Eighty-six House members sought re-election and 71 were re-elected. Thirteen had no opposition. Sixty-five were named in the first primary.

These figures give proof that when legislators vote for what they believe to be right and have the courage to defend their votes, they can rely on the good judgment of the people.

Teachers Salaries

Two years ago we increased the salaries of our teachers. We knew the increase did not put their salaries on an equality with those of teachers in the adjoining States. Young women and young men who at the expense of the taxpayers have been educated in South Carolina to teach continue to go to other States where they receive greater compensation and greater opportunities.

The budget that will be submitted to you will recommend a salary increase of 10 per cent for the teachers of South Carolina. I recommend that you grant it.

Building Fund, Drivers, Buses

A survey of school construction needs recently completed in all the counties of the State shows that under the provisions of existing law there will not be available sufficient funds to provide for the ever increasing school population. We still have schools with two shifts. I recommend that the law be amended to provide an allotment of \$20 per pupil annually instead of \$15 per pupil.

I recommend that the salaries of student bus drivers be increased to \$35 per month, effective January 1, 1953.

It will be necessary during the next fiscal year to replace a large number of buses. Consolidation will require additional buses. Under the law we have the right to borrow money for this purpose, but to me it does not make sense to borrow money when we have cash available. Therefore, I recommend that you make an appropriation for the purchase of buses instead of borrowing the money.

While the last General Assembly made wonderful educational progress, its members recognized, as all of us must recognize, that they did not provide a complete educational program. That is your opportunity and your task.

The college and the public school system are essential and independent parts of any integral program of public education. Both must be properly supported if we are to attain a balanced program of general public education. They must move forward together.

The public school system must look to the college for its administrators and teachers. The real measure of any school, secondary or collegiate, is its teacher and its administrator.

Program for Colleges

Therefore, as we attempt to mark out a program of general public education, we must deal equally with the State-supported colleges and with the public school system.

As we provide better high school opportunities for boys and girls in rural areas, we will have more boys and girls entering college.

As we have more accredited high schools for Negro students, we will have greater demands on the State College at Orangeburg. Last September this college could not accept the students who sought to enter. Its facilities must be greatly increased.

For several years the colleges have been appealing for funds for permanent improvements. Our financial condition did not permit the General Assembly to grant their requests.

At this time we cannot hope to provide for all the permanent improvements urged by the educational institutions. We should, however, provide for the more urgent needs.

In order to take care of the most urgent permanent improvements needed at the colleges, and the Cedar Springs School for the Deaf and Blind, and the State Penitentiary, we have recommended an appropriation of approximately \$5,500,000. In addition, one of the educational institutions, Winthrop College, has to its credit in the treasury and available for permanent improvements \$690,000.

Provisions for permanent improvements at the colleges in the future should be separated from appropriations for operating expenses. I recommend the enactment of legislation providing for the issuance of State Institution Bonds upon the application of the trustees of a State-supported college when such application is approved by the Budget and Control Board. The said bonds will be payable primarily from the funds the State derives annually from tuition fees paid by those attending such institutions.

Before approving the application of the trustees of an institution who are elected by the General Assembly, the Budget and Control Board would have to make a formal finding that the

permanent improvement is needed, that the tuition fees charged by the institution are sufficient to discharge the debt and if at any time it becomes necessary such fees will be revised in order to meet the payments.

The enactment of such legislation would lessen the rivalry between these educational institutions for permanent improvements. Frequently, when an institution has sought funds for a permanent improvement, other institutions have asked for an equal appropriation regardless of the need. The friends of each institution, in and out of the General Assembly, have regarded it as discriminatory unless an equal amount was allotted to each institution for permanent improvements. It has been costly and unwise.

Under this plan the educational institutions will not feel called upon to ask authority to borrow money and pledge their tuition fees just because one institution having a real need seeks to secure funds by pledging its tuition fees. However, should they seek to do it, the Budget and Control Board could be relied upon to disapprove it.

Tuition Fees

I recommend that you amend the law which now fixes at \$80 per year the tuition fees for State students at most institutions. The trustees elected by the General Assembly should be allowed to fix the tuition subject to the approval of the Budget and Control Board.

All other services have increased since tuition was fixed at \$80. The college authorities correctly state the cost of operation has increased and the General Assembly has increased appropriations. To the extent that the cost of operation is not collected from the students, the taxpayers, including persons who send their children to denominational and private colleges or to no college at all, must pay an additional subsidy to those who attend State-supported institutions.

Under this plan if the college wishes to continue its present tuition fees, it could do so but it would limit its ability to borrow money for permanent improvements. There is little danger of a college increasing tuition fees too much because they are all competing for students, and increasing tuition fees would reduce the number of students. However, should the trustees of

a college attempt to do the unexpected, the Budget and Control Board could disapprove it.

This proposal has been submitted by me to the presidents of the institutions of higher education and was approved by them.

The Budget and Control Board has requested the Legislative Council to draft a Permanent Improvement Bill setting forth the details of this plan and the appropriations recommended for permanent improvements at State institutions. Because of the need for early consideration of the request of the Medical College, I hope the appropriate committees may consider this Bill before beginning consideration of the General Appropriation Bill for operating expenses.

Election Law

I have appointed a committee to study the 1950 Election Law with a view to recommending amendments which would eliminate some of the weaknesses discovered in the conduct of the 1950 and 1952 elections.

Meanwhile, I hope the General Assembly will enact a provision for an absentee ballot for servicemen as I recommended to a Committee of the House last year.

Taxes on Service Pay

I recommend that men and women in the military service be given a flat \$2,000 exemption from State income taxes levied against service pay.

Industrial Commission Records

I again wish to recommend that the law governing the Industrial Commission be revised to provide that the records of the Commission showing awards should be open to inspection just as are the records of all courts. I further recommend that the law be amended to provide that upon an appeal from the full Commission, the courts have the same powers and duties as upon an appeal or review in an equity case.

Enact as Permanent Laws

Two provisions in the General Appropriations Bill last year should be enacted as permanent laws. First, the list of persons

receiving public funds should be permanently open for inspection. Second, persons legally responsible for patients in the State Hospital, State Training School and the State Sanitorium should be required to pay the expenses of patients when financially able to do so. This should be done by clarification of a provision in the Mental Health Act of 1952, insofar as the State Hospital and Training School are concerned.

Rehabilitation of Alcoholics

The committee appointed by a resolution of the last General Assembly to study the desirability of establishing a State-supported institution for the treatment of alcoholics has submitted to you its report. I hope you will give it your earnest consideration.

I agree with so much of the report as recommends establishing an alcoholic rehabilitation center. Because it is an experimental program, it should be a small project. It should be available to residents of South Carolina who voluntarily commit themselves and are willing to pay a minimum cost to the State for their care and maintenance during the period of rehabilitation.

Constitutional Convention

In my Inaugural Address in 1951 and again in my message to the Legislature last year, I proposed that a convention be held to draft a new State Constitution. In those messages I set forth the reasons for my recommendation. I again urge such action.

In the General Election on November 4th we had a good illustration of one minor reason for writing a new Constitution. The voters of all 46 counties were called upon to vote on 12 amendments to the Constitution, each of which affected only one county. The ballot contained so many amendments of interest only to voters of a single county that a large percentage of the voters disregarded the ballot.

Many counties have never reported the vote upon the amendments. Two counties voted down local amendments; but because of a majority vote over the State, the amendments were approved. A new Constitution should eliminate the requirement that the voters of the entire State be asked to vote on purely local questions in which they have no interest.

Legislators Eligible

The voters approved the Constitutional amendment which makes legislators eligible to serve as members of a Constitutional Convention. I urge that it be ratified. Then I earnestly urge you to let the people decide whether they want a Constitutional Convention.

School Amendment

The other amendment of State-wide importance approved by the voters on November 4th was the amendment eliminating the requirement that the General Assembly provide a system of free public schools for all children between the ages of six and twenty-one.

Ratification of this amendment should await the decision of the United States Supreme Court as to whether we shall continue to have the right to segregate the races in the public schools, as required by our State Constitution.

Should the decision be favorable, you might consider ratification unnecessary. Should the decision be adverse, then the General Assembly can decide whether the amendment should be ratified.

No one can tell when the United States Supreme Court will announce its decision in the Clarendon school case. It is my earnest hope that in the early days of the session the General Assembly will be able to make progress with its routine business so that should the decision of the Supreme Court be adverse, you will be free to devote your time to the consideration of the serious problem such a decision would present.

Length of Session

Last year the members of the General Assembly received deserved applause from the people for disposing of the legislative business within 40 legislative days. If you try, you can do it this year. Certainly if I can do anything to facilitate your work, I hope you will call on me. You can be assured of my sincere cooperation.

JOINT ASSEMBLY RECEDES

The purposes of the Joint Assembly having been accomplished, the PRESIDENT announced that under the terms of the Con-