

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1963

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE
DONALD S. RUSSELL,
AS GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
JANUARY 15, 1963

Governor Hollings, Lt. Governor McNair, President Pro Tempore Brown, Members of the Senate, Speaker Blatt, Members of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice Taylor, Members of the Judiciary, Governor Sanford, Distinguished Guests, Visitors and Friends:

Today, with honorable pride in our State—both of its past and of its future—and with an abiding gratitude for those devoted friends and supporters whose enthusiastic confidence has made possible this happy event, I have taken this solemn oath of office.

I have done so with a sobering sense of the tasks ahead.

I have done so, too, with the fervent hope that it may be said of us, as it was of a great English statesman, that we were “too fond of the right to pursue the expedient.”

This oath of Governor is one of official dedication for me. We shall have in the four years ahead but one ambition, and that is to give to all our people the opportunity they truly deserve in the bright tomorrow which beckons before us all. We must have the courage to dream big dreams and dream of a better world for each one of you. Above all, we must have the will and the energy to give to those big dreams reality.

Much has been said of the progress South Carolina has made in recent years. It is true. We have come a long way, considering the way we had to come. But the unhappy truth is that, for all our progress, we have not kept up. Once we were thankful that we ranked no lower than 47th among the States in many of the important standards of growth and improvement. Now that we have added two new States, we find ourselves ranked 49th in some of the very things that count most.

We do not want this to be; we cannot let it be. Let us not curse the darkness; let us light a candle.

In saying these things, I neither decry nor deprecate the growth and expansion which have occurred during the administrations of any of our predecessors in the office I assume today. Rather I congratulate them, and I am grateful that a few days ago Governor Hollings offered us his support and assistance. We shall call upon him and the other distinguished and dedicated men now living who have served as Governors of our State for their wise counsel.

We are living in the most swiftly moving era in human history. This age of dazzling progress and revolution is upon us and with us. We must leap forward with it or be left hopelessly behind. The challenges are being thrust upon us, and we have not fully accepted them. We are living in a space age, but there is not a single space-age industry in South Carolina and little, if any, teaching and research in some of the more advanced fields of knowledge which have grown so rapidly in such a short time as to make the marvelous and the miraculous commonplace.

There has occurred in our time an intellectual explosion in this nation and in the world. The many uses of atomic energy, of antibiotics, and of electronics, the accepted fact of space travel, and the advances in manufacturing are but manifestations of this more subtle and much deeper development.

So far has the mind of man advanced in certain areas and so dramatically has the scope of man's knowledge been broadened that the thing or the idea which was new yesterday is obsolete today and may be useless tomorrow. One of the dangers of our time is that we have not and may not be able to keep up with the hectic pace at which we are forced to live with a corresponding growth in the things of the spirit, the balanced mind, and sound sociological development.

As it was said in *Alice in Wonderland*, we are living in an age where "it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run twice as fast as that." And that is what we in South Carolina must do.

Let us not waste ourselves in excuses for the shortcomings of the past. Ours is the present and the future. The challenge and the opportunity are here and we shall meet them, either by default or by carefully planned and dynamic action. Our answer must be not a testament of despair but the strong, clear voice of confident anticipation and firm resolve.

We can answer this challenge and make our response our strength if we properly train and educate our people to participate fully and competitively in this new world of opportunity. To fail to do this is to rust away in mediocrity and stagnation. Thomas Jefferson once said that, "Knowledge is power, knowledge is safety, knowledge is happiness." With Jefferson, that may have been a goal; with us it is a necessity. Sheer muscle is rapidly becoming obsolete. Only the literate and trained have a place in the world of tomorrow, in what the English scientist, C. P. Snow, has described as our "tech-

nological tempest." The untrained and uneducated will have no place in this "tempest." An unlimited faith in man's ability to learn and through learning to improve himself materially, morally, and spiritually, and an unfaltering determination that all our people shall have that opportunity to learn and adapt to this new world must be our charge to keep, otherwise, we shall be submerged in this "tempest."

It is because I believe this, and believe it deeply, that I ran for Governor. As Governor, I want desperately to see that every person in our State has this chance for knowledge and has a real part in the great untapped hopes of this new era.

I offer no apologies for placing first, both in my heart and in this inaugural, public education and my concern for the minds and souls of men. We know that other Governors have devoted themselves zealously to it. But the problem is still with us, and it is more pressing than ever before, and it will be with us for the indefinite future. It must never be forgotten that government cannot give to us everything we want or even need. Under our system, our wants and our needs must normally be satisfied by the enterprise and the resourcefulness of free men working in a climate of free enterprise. But we can give to all the opportunity for knowledge and for the development of such skills and talents as they have in order to enable them to achieve by their own efforts what they want and what they need.

This is the sure road to industrial expansion. We all recognize the critical need to draw to our State new industries and to develop more and more jobs for our people. We must do this with the promise of intelligent, trained, and industrious employees and with the assurance of sound, economical, and impartial government. Our appeal to the industries we so desperately need must not be unseemly promises of cheap labor. On the contrary, we must generate industrial growth with the quality of our labor, its character, its talent, its skill, and its will to give an honest day's work for a fair wage. Only with that lure can we bring to South Carolina the kind of industry we want and that our people deserve. That is the sure formula for success and for increased income for all.

It will, also, mean that our agriculture will prosper in an atmosphere of greater knowledge. Agriculture is still our most important industry. Its development must not be abandoned in leadership to the national government. With better knowledge and with quickened research we can promote diversification of product and can develop woefully neglected processing and distribution facilities. Quality standards can be established; and, as in education, quality is the real key to progress in agriculture for our State.

We must, though, not localize our concern for public education or attempt to compartmentalize its development. Quality it must be at all levels, for quality must occupy the front seat in every classroom; but it must be as broad and varied in its scope and programs as the talents and skills of our people. It cannot be restrictive or limited. We must serve all the people, those of one talent as well as those of five talents. Ours must not be quality education merely for the gifted and the talented, all-important as that may be, for in this "technological tempest" no one would discount the importance of the gifted and talented, from whom our scientists and leaders in every field must be drawn. But we must never forget the average boy and girl.

The propelling force behind America's progress has been for generations the ideal of universal education. Ours has ever been the wish to give to all the best of education of which they are capable. Our goal for each student must be excellence according to his ability. We must educate the scientist to unlock nature's gifts for the benefit of all, the statesman to preserve our heritage of freedom in a divided world, and the minister to guide our spiritual life. We must, too, train the skilled workmen who can translate the achievements of the scientists into reality. All these groups must profit from and be the beneficiaries of our system of education.

We cannot overlook the place of adult education in this structure, especially in South Carolina. All too many of our adult population are unfortunately ill-prepared for the industrial and technological life now beginning to envelop us. Automation, both in agriculture and in industry, has displaced and will displace more and more of those now gainfully employed. These displaced workers must not be forgotten; they must not be abandoned to relief rolls as public charges. We must offer to them the chance to retrain, in order that they may continue to be self-supporting and self-respecting citizens, contributing to the progress of our Commonwealth. This must be a vital—and not a secondary—part of our technical education program. And may I express the hope that business will increasingly recognize that age need not be a bar to new employment and that it will accept its responsibility to give full consideration to the re-trained mature worker.

Included in this great ideal of universal education are the handicapped and the temporarily incapacitated, whether from physical or mental causes. They are parts of the common problem. Persons who yesterday would have been abandoned, often to become charges either upon public or private charity, are being educated today or

reclaimed from mental sickness so that they might lead productive and satisfying lives. This is good business. Such a person becomes, not a liability, but a valuable asset to our State.

Let us not, though, falsely assume that we can have a sound educational structure merely by building at the top. We must begin at the bottom and work methodically up, step by step, with equal concern for all, for education is a great continuous, ever-flowing stream. It is like a chain, and it must have no weak links. We shall never have great colleges without great high schools, nor shall we have great high schools without great elementary schools. If we would build well, the whole range—from the elementary school through the college and university—must be our over-riding concern. We shall look to the colleges and universities for the teachers and administrators who give life and inspiration to our educational program in the public schools; we shall look to our elementary and secondary schools to prepare properly the students without which our colleges and our universities cannot exist. The two—the college and the school—can only exist or prosper together, never separately.

In doing all this, we recognize that largely the real responsibility lies, as it should, with the local school districts. The State should not seek to fetter the spirit of educational pioneering by these districts. Such districts should be encouraged, in the spirit of our free enterprise system, to show initiative and to innovate. Whether it be in television, an eleven-months' academic program, or an appropriate use of tuition grants, innovation must receive enthusiastic encouragement. By such freedom of action and with such initiative, our school systems may adapt to a fast-changing world and keep pace with our technological growth.

To this balanced program, designed to give the fullest benefits to people of all talents and skills, we must devote every resource we as a State can. It would be foolish and irresponsible, however, not to recognize in this connection our financial limitations. Since World War II, the indebtedness of local and state governments has skyrocketed 378 per cent. Within the last five years in South Carolina we have increased state tax levies which add over \$26,000,000 per year in tax revenue. There is a limit beyond which this State cannot go in taxation, however persuasive the need, if economic progress is not to be retarded or job opportunities thwarted. The baneful effect of too burdensome a system of taxation upon growth and progress is universally recognized. For these reasons, any immediate tax increase would not be in the public interest, and I do not favor any.

This does not mean, however, that we cannot and should not go a long way towards meeting the financial requirements of an educational program for our State in the space age. Our tax system is substantially based on consumer taxes, which bear a direct relation to gross national income. For years this gross national income has been increasing from year to year—not as much as one might have liked, but increasing. Our people have shared in these increases, and it is reasonable to assume we shall continue. Certainly we shall do so if we continue to press forward, as we must, with our industrial expansion and growth. It follows that, for the foreseeable future, we would experience annually increases in our tax revenues.

But the important thing is: What are we going to do with this increase? Where shall we spend it? As a State, we cannot finance every worthwhile project, and we cannot do everything today. We must instead place first things first and concentrate upon the public investment that will mean more now to all our people and to the progress of our State. We must make every tax dollar produce a full dollar's worth of public service by scrutinizing every expenditure with enlightened frugality and by spending that dollar where it will do the most good. We need to fix for ourselves an order of priority for public expenditures. We must make a choice in public expenditures not simply between the useful and the needless. For the immediate future we must actually make a choice between the essential and the desirable. And we must adhere to this order of priority and to this choice of the essential. This is no more than we are constantly doing in our own personal lives and with our own personal resources. Life is largely a succession of choices and alternatives, and success is determined by the wisdom of our choices.

It is obvious that we firmly believe that our first order of priority must be increased financial support for our investment in human resources, in knowledge, in education, and thus better opportunity for all our people. The first charge upon our increases in tax revenue in the immediate years ahead should be for our program of broad public education at all levels. This will mean, as we have already indicated, that many other desirable projects and programs may not receive all we would like to provide or that they may actually be delayed. We cannot do everything at once, and we must not try. By investing in our own individuals and in the full development of their talents and skills, we will be building for the future and building a storehouse of treasures from which all the many other desirable public programs may ultimately be financed and adequately supported. To state it differently, if we do not invest in our hu-

man resources and in our people's talents, we will never have the financial resources to do all we need to do as a State. In this technological world in which we are now living there is but one road to progress, and we in South Carolina must travel it. We will not have another chance.

Of course, financial need will not be the only problem for education. There will be other and varied difficulties. But we shall meet with courage whatever the future holds for us, and we shall work out our problems peaceably, according to our standards of justice and decency.

Nor would we have it thought that public education is our only concern, even though it has priority in our thinking. Mental health, proper law enforcement, and many other programs will press for attention. They, too, are important, and I shall, at an appropriate time, submit specific recommendations on these and other vital matters to the General Assembly. But we seek today to fix our eyes on the main goal, for time will not wait and the hour for progress is late.

Almost two hundred years ago Ben Franklin wrote his friend, Joseph Priestly, the discoverer of oxygen:

"The rapid progress true science now makes occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born too soon. It is impossible to imagine the height to which may be carried, in a thousand years, the power of man over matter. We may perhaps learn to deprive large masses of their gravity, and give them absolute levity, for the sake of easy transport. Agriculture may diminish its labour and double its produce; all diseases may by sure means be prevented or cured, not excepting that of old age, and our lives lengthened at pleasure even beyond the antediluvian standard. O that moral science were in as fair a way of improvement, that men would cease to be wolves to one another, and that human beings would at length learn what they improperly call humanity."

You and I were not born "too soon." We are living in that age for which Franklin yearned. The question is whether our people are to share competitively in it and in the blessings it extends. Victor Hugo once wrote that more powerful than a mighty army is the strength of an idea whose time has come. Our time has come if we but have the will to assert for ourselves a vital role in this world of exploding new ideas. This is our supreme challenge. South Carolina's future will await our response. May our response be clear and

unmistakable. May human knowledge be our goal for the morrow, and with that knowledge may we fashion progress and unlimited growth for all.

I love South Carolina and her people. My prayer is God give me the health, the energy, the wisdom, the courage, and the vision to prove that love.

ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of the Inauguration ceremonies, the Senate in accordance with a motion of Mr. DENNIS, adjourned, to meet tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

Wednesday, January 16, 1963

The Senate assembled at 11:00 a. m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT, the Honorable ROBERT E. McNAIR.

A quorum being present the proceedings were opened with prayer by the Chaplain as follows:

"We thank Thee, Our Father, for the privilege and the power of prayer:

"Help us to fulfill the conditions of its effectiveness in our lives by attitudes of submission and surrender. Manifest in and through us the creative power of prayer, that the deliberations, the conclusions and actions of these days may indicate not only our close association with man's desperate needs, but more especially with God's concern and God's resources.

"Prepare us spiritually in this Holy moment of prayer for the problems of this day—is our morning prayer in the name of Christ. Amen."

The PRESIDENT called for Motions, Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT addressed the Senate as follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate:

Since this is the first time that I have appeared before you officially, I would like to say that this is the real inauguration as far as I am concerned.

I certainly feel that this is the greatest honor ever bestowed upon me—the privilege of presiding over this distinguished body. It shall be my desire to be as good a presiding officer as possible. I ask your indulgence and cooperation. I realize that I shall make many mistakes during the next few days, few weeks and next few years, but I assure you, none of them will be intentional. I shall do the best I can to make the type of presiding officer you would like to have and to follow the outstanding record that has been made by those who preceded me. It shall be my purpose to try to conduct the business of the Senate in the same dignified manner that this Body is accustomed to.

We know, after listening to the distinguished Governor on yesterday that South Carolina may well be on the threshold of its greatest period of development. We have the right to be proud of our past accomplishments and past history, because no state has a more glorious past than ours. I believe that our past can serve us best if we let it be an inspiration to us in the future,—let it be a guide to us in our deliberations—to challenge us to greater things in the years ahead.

The future of South Carolina is in our hands. It will be what you and all of us working together make of it. Let us face the problems of today and tomorrow with the same determination of those who have brought us this far. Let us resolve to increase our efforts for progress in Education, Business, Economic Development,—all of the things that are so vital the future of this State and to the preparation of our young people for the challenges of the years ahead.

As we begin a new session under a new administration, I pledge to you, to each of you, my cooperation. I will only be as good a presiding officer, as I said in the beginning, as you permit me to be.

I pledge to you and the Senate as a whole, my full cooperation in the years ahead. I invite your support, counsel and advice. I will welcome the opportunity to talk with you, and the office of the President of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor is open to each of you at any time.

I recognize that I am not a member of the Senate and shall so conduct myself at all times. I do want to work with you to carry on the business of the Senate according to the traditions and customs of the past.

With this in mind we can now proceed to the business of the day. Thank you very much.