

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
S.C. RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1976

It is said that one of the noblest accomplishments in a person's life is to have taught another person something of value. In your case, you can count many noble accomplishments during your dedicated careers in education.

I have had the opportunity to understand your profession firsthand. Both my parents are retired public school teachers and I have learned through them the dedication that your profession carries with it.

My parents have also given me some insight into some of your problems. I understand that the current level of retirement income for those of you who retired prior to 1972 is less than those who retired later.

I am supporting legislative action to correct this situation. However, I understand that a piece of legislation that would equalize this situation was defeated in the House of Representatives earlier this week.

My staff is working on proposals which should encourage legislation in this area. However, any moves toward improvement should be made within the financial bounds of the retirement system.

Our activities are aimed at computing retirement on the same formula. Not on two different formulas as is now being done.

I hope the General Assembly will take action in this session to correct this problem. You have shown by your years of dedication and service your concern for the future of South Carolina.

By the same token, it is the responsibility of the state to show its concern for your future by appropriate legislation.