

ADDRESS, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND SPACE COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA

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Through the work of the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board, the South, as a region, holds an unquestioned position of national leadership in state-oriented programs for technology application. I know that the attainment of this position is a source of great pride to this Conference and to its members who had the vision and confidence to organize and give continuing support to the development and growth of this unique capability for our states in the nuclear and space fields.

It is noteworthy that this is the tenth anniversary of initiation by this Conference of a formal exploration of the new world of atomic energy and its potential for contribution to the economic and social betterment of our region. The resulting story of the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board illustrates how vision and initiative on the part of the Conference are creating a favorable climate for technological advancement and encouragement of new jobs and new revenue-producing projects.

When the governors first acted in 1955, it was a pioneering step based on a realization that sound governmental planning by the southern states was needed to assure a solid base for speeding the benefits of the peaceful atom to each and every citizen. It was realized that advancement in this new field of endeavor would be in direct relationship to the ease and facility with which technology was translated and applied in industry, medicine, and agriculture. This action was influenced also by the availability of trained manpower, modernization of laws, regulations and codes to meet new conditions brought about by advancement in applied science. It was accurately anticipated that the states would find themselves increasingly involved as the peacetime atomic energy program expanded, in such matters as: Job and revenue producing potentials of atomic energy; regulation and inspection of radioactive materials; enforcement of state codes in the protection of workers and the public; coordination of regulatory and developmental activities; safety in the transportation of nuclear materials; waste disposal and storage problems; water and air pollution; state-industry cooperation in informing the public; requirements for nuclear facilities; training of personnel in radiation techniques; building codes; zoning; location of nuclear facilities; conservation of natural resources; deter-