

CONCESSION SPEECH DURING 1969 SCHOOL BOARD CAMPAIGN

JAMES L. SOLOMON, JR.

James Solomon lost the Sumter District 17 school board election in 1969. This June 21, 1960 text is his concession speech.

The speech ends with Solomon calling on his supporters to maintain the political momentum they gained during the election. Solomon would run again the next year, and this time he would be elected to office.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers, your concern and your support in the recent school board election.

While it is true that we were not elected to the school board I really do not feel that we should consider this a defeat.

We made an effort, we involved our people, we expressed a concern, we exhibited an interest, and we gained respect for our effort, our people, our concern and our interest. We were [not] defeated.

We must not lose what we have gained. We must from this moment on improve upon our techniques, and involve more and more of us. We must remain together and strengthen our togetherness. We must from this moment on renew our courage and faith and continue to move forward together. With God's help and a strong determination we can and will do this.

Again thank you for your support.

Acknowledgements. This text is based on an original document in the James L. Solomon holdings of the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.