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5-27-1980

### Ohio Contractors Association, May 27, 1980

Vern Riffe

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# INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Mr. Speaker DATE 5/14/80

FROM: Ann

SUBJECT: Speech for Ohio Contractors Association - Cleveland Chapter

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May 27, 1980 - Tuesday

Blue Fox Restaurant

6:30

Barry R. Connors will be contacting you about travel arrangements.

## SPEECH

### OHIO CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION - CLEVELAND CHAPTER

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY. IT IS MY HOPE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS I'VE MADE ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF OHIO AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

AFTER NEARLY 21 YEARS IN THE HOUSE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT NO ONE, NOT EVEN SPEAKER VERN RIFFE, DOES EVERYTHING ALONE IN THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT.

THE STATEHOUSE IS A 99 MEMBER HOUSE, A 33 MEMBER SENATE, AND ONE GOVERNOR. TO GET ANYTHING ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT IN MIND: 50

17. 1.

IT TAKES THE AGREEMENT OF 50 HOUSE MEMBERS, 17 SENATORS, AND ONE GOVERNOR, IF ANYTHING IS TO MOVE THROUGH THE STATEHOUSE.

IN 1977 AND 1978, SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT BECAUSE DEMOCRATS HAD MAJORITIES OF 62 IN THE HOUSE AND 21 IN THE SENATE, DEMOCRATS COULD RUN GOVERNMENT FROM THE LEGISLATURE, TO HECK WITH THE GOVERNOR, SOME FOLKS SAID. AS LONG AS AT LEAST 60 HOUSE MEMBERS AND 20 SENATE MEMBERS COULD AGREE ON THE SAME PIECE OF LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNOR'S OPINION WOULDN'T MATTER BECAUSE HIS VETO COULD BE OVERRIDDEN IF -- AND THE IF WAS WHAT SOME TOOK FOR GRANTED -- 60 DEMOCRATS IN THE HOUSE AND 20 DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE STICK TOGETHER AND VOTED IN LOCKSTEP.

I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A STRONG LEADER, BUT THERE IS NO ONE PERSON WHO IS EVER GOING TO DICTATE TO EVEN 2 PERSONS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO MARCH IN LOCKSTEP ON THIS ISSUE OR THAT ISSUE. I CAN'T EVEN GET MY GOOD WIFE TO AGREE WITH ME ALL THE TIME.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT EXIST TO RUN GOVERNMENT, IT EXISTS AS THE FORUM FOR THE DEBATE AND DISCUSSION OF IDEAS THAT PEOPLE BRING TO IT. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS THE ARENA IN WHICH A MAJORITY CONSENSUS MUST BE FOUND IF THERE IS TO BE ANY PUBLIC POLICY MADE ON ANY ISSUE AFFECTING OHIO'S 10.6 MILLION CITIZENS. NO ONE PERSON'S IDEA IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM IS EVER SO RIGHT OR SO CLEAR AS TO BE AGREED

TO BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITIES IN THE FORM IT WAS INTRODUCED.

COMPROMISE, CONSENSUS. THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.

I LIKE TO THINK OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS BEING  
A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS. A  
COOPERATIVE SPIRIT HAS PREVAILED.

I SEE THREE MAJOR AREAS OF FOCUS:

I. ASSESSMENT AND TIGHTER MANAGEMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS.

II. TAX RELIEF

III. ENERGY

I. ASSESSMENT AND TIGHTER MANAGEMENT

--BUDGET - NO NEW TAXES

--THE BIENNIAL BUDGET CONTAINED A MULTITUDE OF

PROGRAM INITIATIVES, IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES WHICH  
WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER QUALITY OF SERVICE TO THE  
PEOPLE OF OHIO.

--EMPHASIS IN EDUCATION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
APPROPRIATED A HUGE INCREASE TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION - MORE THAN \$786 MILLION OVER THE PAST  
BIENNIUM.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVISED THE STATE FORMULA FOR  
DISTRUBTION OF FUNDS TO DISTRICTS (S.B. 59)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT  
BILL (H.B. 2385).

--EMPHASIS ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

--OHIO'S STATE SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AND BRANCH CAMPUSES CONTINUED TO RECEIVE STRONG FUNDING.

--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXTENDED THE OHIO INSTRUCTIONAL GRANT PROGRAM TO STUDENTS AT PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS AND OIG INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS WERE INCREASED TO \$20,000.

--I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY MENTION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ACTION ON H.J.R. 73. THIS ACTION WILL BE OF INTEREST TO MANY OF YOUR MEMBERS.

THE RESOLUTION PROPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WILL APPEAR ON THE JUNE 3 PRIMARY BALLOT.

IT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF UP TO \$510 MILLION IN HIGHWAY BONDS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. THE DEPARTMENT



OF TRANSPORTATION WOULD HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EACH YEAR TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED BOND ISSUANCES.

DURING THE 5 YEARS, THE \$510 MILLION IN BONDS COULD BE USED TO ATTRACT A POSSIBLE \$1.5 BILLION IN FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS.

IF THE STATE FAILS TO COME UP WITH NEW ROAD REVENUES THIS YEAR, OHIO COULD LOSE ABOUT \$400 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID.

MONEY FROM THESE BOND ISSUANCES WOULD BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS AND BRIDGES, AS WELL AS MAJOR RESURFACING, AS DEFINED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

BOND MONEY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SUCH AS PATCHING POTHoles, FIXING GUARDRAILS, ETC.

## II. TAX RELIEF

PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACK - AN ADDITIONAL 2-1/2% IN REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF WAS EXTENDED TO HOMEOWNERS IN ADDITION TO A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT 10% ROLLBACK. THIS WILL SAVE OHIOANS \$44 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAXES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROGRAM WERE INCREASED FROM \$10,000 TO \$15,000 (.S.B. 6).

NO SALES TAX ON DEPOSIT BOTTLES.

## III. ENERGY

THE ENERGY CREDITS PROGRAM WAS CONTINUED AND INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS WERE INCREASED. THE ENERGY CREDITS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP LOW INCOME ELDERLY AND DISABLED PAY THEIR WINTER HEATING BILLS.

--LAST YEAR, 46 MILLION IN BENEFITS WERE GRANTED  
TO 300,000 HOUSEHOLDS.

--PROVIDED FOR WEATHERIZATION OF HOMES.

THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS ALSO PLACED AN EMPHASIS  
ON USING OHIO COAL.

FINDING THE WORKING MAJORITY IS THE ESSENCE OF  
GETTING LAWS PASSED IN OHIO. IT IS THE LEGISLATIVE  
PROCESS.

IT IS NOT EASY AND IT IS NOT AN EASILY OR CLEARLY  
UNDERSTOOD PROCESS. NONE OF US COMES TO COLUMBUS WITH  
THE 100% SOLUTION FOR ANY PROBLEM. WE COME TO COLUMBUS  
TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO GET THINGS DONE.