

OPENING REMARKS, GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE, ANNUAL MEETING
CHUMAREE RODEWAY INN, SALEM
MARCH 15, 1983 10:15 A.M.

PREPARED TEXT

I AM VERY HAPPY TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING.

THIS GROUP IS AN EXAMPLE OF STRONG MOTIVATION AND THE KIND OF ACTION-ORIENTED PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OREGON AGRICULTURE THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY.

OREGON AGRICULTURE TODAY FACES THE SAME GRIM ECONOMIC FORCES FACED BY FARMERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. BUT WE ARE IN SOME WAYS MORE FORTUNATE THAN OTHERS -- BECAUSE THERE IS A STRONG PHILOSOPHY AND TRADITION IN OREGON OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE FARMER IN FACING COMMON PROBLEMS.

THE EMPHASIS IN OUR STATE IS NOT -- AND NEVER HAS BEEN A PHILOSOPHY THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ALL THE ANSWERS. INSTEAD, THE EMPHASIS IN OREGON IS TO HELP THE FARMER HELP HIMSELF.

OUR COMMODITY COMMISSIONS, OUR TRADE SHOWS AND MARKETING EFFORTS, OUR PROMOTION OF OREGON PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE ALL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OREGON AGRICULTURE HAS MADE THEM SUCCESSFUL.

AGRICULTURE IN OREGON IS INCREDIBLY DIVERSE. COUNTLESS DIFFERENT TYPES OF CROPS AND POTENTIAL MARKETS ARE REPRESENTED WITHIN THE INDUSTRY.

BUT THAT HAS NEVER STOPPED GROUPS LIKE THIS ONE FROM WORKING TOGETHER TO FACE COMMON PROBLEMS AND MEET ISSUES HEAD-ON. OREGON'S SELF-HELP APPROACH HAS LED TO MANY SUCCESSES, AND WILL LEAD TO MANY MORE DESPITE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THAT EXIST WORLDWIDE FOR AGRICULTURE.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT OREGON GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO CONTINUE OUR STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OREGON FARMERS. OUR STATE COULD NEVER EXIST WITHOUT THE 70,000 FULL-TIME JOBS AND \$6 BILLION THAT OREGON AGRICULTURE CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ECONOMY.

OREGON AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN FAR AHEAD OF ALMOST EVERY OTHER OREGON INDUSTRY IN COORDINATING ITS LOBBYING, MARKETING, AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS. FARMERS THEMSELVES ARE WORKING WITH US AND WITH EACH OTHER TO TURN OUR ECONOMY AROUND. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SOW THE SEEDS OF DEMAND IN NEW MARKETS -- OVERSEAS AND AT HOME. THE EFFORTS WE MAKE WILL MOVE US FORWARD INTO WHAT I BELIEVE WILL BE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OREGON AGRICULTURE.

OREGON STATE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY IN A UNIFIED WAY WITH FARMERS AND FARM GROUPS TO FACE AND RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES THE 1980'S HAVE BROUGHT US.

YOUR GATHERING HERE TODAY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THAT UNITY IN ACTION. IN THIS ECONOMY -- WITH THESE CHALLENGES -- THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, SELF-HELP, AND JOINT PROBLEM SOLVING IS STILL ONE OF THE GREAT SPIRITS OF THE OREGON FARMER.

AND IN TIMES LIKE THESE, THAT SPIRIT CONTINUES TO BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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