

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES
77TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
VALLEY RIVER INN, EUGENE
NOVEMBER 19, 1982, NOON

PREPARED TEXT

I AM HAPPY TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY. I KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY NEW FACES IN YOUR ASSOCIATION THIS YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING OLD FRIENDS -- AND WORKING WITH NEW ONES AS WE MOVE AHEAD INTO 1983.

I ALSO WANT TO CONGRATULATE JERRY ORRICK FOR REACHING HIS 15TH YEAR OF SERVICE TO OREGON COUNTIES. JERRY HAS GIVEN A LOT OF YEARS AND A LOT OF GOOD WORK THAT HAS HELPED GIVE THE AOC A PROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVE VOICE THROUGHOUT OUR STATE. [IT IS A VOICE THAT SPEAKS CONFIDENTLY FOR THE DIVERSE INTERESTS OF ALL 36] OREGON COUNTIES.

I AM SORRY TO HAVE MISSED RUSSELL SADLER'S SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY. WELL... MAYBE "SORRY" IS THE WRONG WORD TO DESCRIBE HOW I FEEL. HOWEVER -- KNOWING RUSSELL -- I AM SURE HE STANDS READY TO GIVE ME AN OUTLINE, A TAPE, A TRANSCRIPT, A SUMMARY, A VIDEO REPLAY, OR EVEN A PERSONAL RENDITION AT THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE OF MY CHOICE ... MORNING, NOON, OR NIGHT. TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, I WILL HAVE TO THINK IT OVER.

BUT I MUST TELL YOU THIS, THAT I HAVE HAD A PRETTY LONG LIST OF THINGS TO "THINK OVER" THIS MONTH. THE STATE'S BUDGET FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM, MY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGES, OUR REVENUE PICTURE, OUR STATE AGENCY NEEDS, AND OUR POLICY PRIORITIES HAVE DOMINATED MY SCHEDULE FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT, DESPITE THE LONG HOURS WE HAVE PUT IN THIS MONTH, IT IS A PLEASURE TO ONCE AGAIN DEVOTE ALL OF MY ENERGIES TO THE TASK OF GOVERNING THIS STATE. CAMPAIGNS ARE DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE, BUT WHEN YOU TRY TO DO THE JOB YOU WERE ELECTED TO DO, AND AT THE SAME TIME TRY TO RUN A FULL BLOWN ELECTION CAMPAIGN ... IT IS A LITTLE LIKE RUNNING OUT OF DRACULA'S CASTLE RIGHT INTO THE ARMS OF FRANKENSTEIN. IT SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE DONE IS SWITCH FROM THE DIFFICULT TO THE HORRIBLE.

BUT WITH THE ELECTION BEHIND US, IT IS TRUE THAT THE COUNTIES, THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, [AND EVEN RUSSELL SADLER] ARE TURNING TO FACE THE FUTURE. THOUGH WE CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN ERA OF DRASTICALLY REDUCED REVENUES, TIME WILL NOT STAND STILL -- AND NEITHER SHOULD WE.

LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS TO YOU ABOUT THE ELECTION RESULTS. OBVIOUSLY, IN MY OWN RACE -- I AM VERY PLEASED. I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR AN OVERWHELMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM CITIZENS IN EVERY COUNTY OF THE STATE. I THINK THAT OREGONIANS RECOGNIZED THAT WE HAVE MADE HARD CHOICES FAIRLY AND CONTINUED OUR GOOD MANAGEMENT DURING VERY DIFFICULT TIMES.

I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF OREGONIANS WHO IN TURN MADE THE HARD CHOICES THEMSELVES. THEY VOTED THEIR CONSCIENCE AND NOT THEIR POCKETBOOK ON BALLOT MEASURE 3. THEY KEPT OUR SYSTEM OF STATEWIDE LAND USE PLANNING -- IN PART BECAUSE WE PROMISED TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER. I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE STABILITY OF OUR SYSTEM OF LAND USE AND TAXATION WILL DEPEND ON THE WORK WE DO IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. WE MUST AND WILL RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES AND INEQUITIES THAT LED TO THE VERY CLOSE RESULTS WE SAW AT THE POLLS.

THAT IS WHY PROPERTY TAXES AND LAND USE REFORMS WILL BE AMONG MY TOP PRIORITIES WHEN THE 1983 LEGISLATURE CONVENES IN JANUARY. I KNOW THAT TAX REFORM PACKAGES AND LAND USE CHANGES WILL ALSO BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR LIST OF ISSUES, TOO.

So, I THINK IT IS A GOOD TIME TODAY TO SHARE WITH YOU, IN GENERAL TERMS, SOME DETAILS ON THESE AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS THAT WILL BE COMING FROM MY OFFICE. I MUST TELL YOU THAT OUR BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS ARE NOT YET FINAL. WE ARE ONLY NOW DRAWING TO THE CLOSE OF A PROCESS THAT BEGAN MANY MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTION. OUR FINAL BUDGET FRAMEWORK -- AND THE DETAILS OF EACH LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE -- WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL NEXT MONTH. THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE: VITAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR A BIENNIUM CANNOT BE DECIDED IN A FLURRY OF DAYS -- NOR SHOULD THEY BE. WE ARE TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE EVERY PROPOSAL, EVERY CHANGE, AND EVERY REFORM THE TIME AND THE CAREFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP THAT IT DESERVES.

LET ME SPEAK FIRST TO YOU ABOUT OUR WORK ON A REASONABLE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PACKAGE. I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT ALL OF US -- EXCEPT FOR RUSSELL SADLER -- SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT PREDICTING THE OUTCOME OF A PACKAGE ABOUT WHICH DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED.. AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS STILL SEVERAL WEEKS AWAY.

BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT OUR AIM IS. WE WANT TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR HARD-PRESSED OREGON TAXPAYERS, AND THE SAME TIME PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE TAXATION APPROACH FOR COUNTIES, SCHOOLS, AND LOCAL TAXING ENTITIES.

I SAID DURING MY CAMPAIGN THAT MY TAX PACKAGE WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE PLAN I INTRODUCED IN 1979. AND THAT IS TRUE.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I DO FAVOR A LID ON PROPERTY TAXES AND A LID ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS. I HAVE BEEN ON RECORD FAVORING SUCH A LID SINCE I RAN FOR GOVERNOR IN 1978. BUT AS YOU ALSO KNOW, I WANT RATES FROZEN WHERE RATES ARE -- NOT ROLLED BACK -- AND I WANT SOME LIMITATION ON THE GROWTH IN ASSESSMENTS. ^{ED VALUES.}

I DO NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL THAT WILL PERMANENTLY FORECLOSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PERFORM ITS VITAL FUNCTIONS, OR MAKE REASONABLE LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE APPROVAL OF LOCAL CITIZENS.

I WILL BE LOOKING AT THESE ISSUES VERY CAREFULLY. I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL SEE IN MY ULTIMATE PROPOSAL SOME OF THE FLEXIBILITY YOU NEED.

MY TAX PROPOSAL IS STILL BEING READIED. I EXPECT ALL OF YOU TO LOOK AT MY PLAN ON ITS MERITS. I EXPECT YOU TO EVALUATE IT IMPARTIALLY -- ON ITS MERITS. BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY HOW I WANT MY PLAN TO STAND OR FALL:

- ON ITS MERITS;

- ON ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN ADDRESSING THE TERRIBLE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN FACED BY OREGON TAXPAYERS; AND

● ON ITS ABILITY TO DO THIS WITHOUT UNFAIRLY
JEOPARDIZING THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS.

ALTHOUGH THE PLAN IS SIMILAR TO MY 1979 PLAN, IT WILL
NOT BY ANY MEANS BE AN EXACT DUPLICATE. IT WILL BE A 1983 TAX
PLAN TO MEET OREGON TAXPAYER'S CONCERNS IN 1983.

I WOULD ASK ALL OF YOU NOT TO PASS JUDGMENT ON A PLAN
YOU HAVE NOT YET SEEN IN ALL OF ITS DETAILS, AND A PLAN YOU HAVE
NOT YET SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF ALL THE OTHER MECHANISMS AND
POLICIES WE ARE EXPLORING.

I EXPECT MY TAX AND REVENUE PACKAGES TO BE JUDGED IN
THEIR ENTIRETY, IN CONTEXT, [AND ON THEIR MERITS.] YOU WILL HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO VERY SOON -- JUST AS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO
EVALUATE OUR OTHER LEGISLATIVE PACKAGES.

LAND USE, FOR EXAMPLE. MY LAND USE TASK FORCE, AND
STAFFORD HANSELL, HAVE DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB IN LISTENING TO
CITIZEN CONCERNS AND ASSEMBLING AN EXCELLENT SERIES OF
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINE-TUNING OUR STATEWIDE LAND USE PROCESS.
THAT TASK FORCE WAS ABLY ASSISTED BY BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER
BARBARA ROSS.

OREGONIANS INDICATED THIS MONTH FOR THE THIRD TIME THAT THEY WANT STATEWIDE LAND USE PLANNING TO CONTINUE. So, I WANT TO TELL EACH OF YOU THAT WE WILL REFORM THE PROCESS -- BUT I WANT THOSE PLANS COMPLETED.

SOME OF YOU HAVE READ THE TASK FORCE REPORT. SOME OF YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCESS THAT LED TO THAT REPORT. LET ME AGAIN DESCRIBE TO YOU THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF MY LAND USE REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS.

- COMPLETION OF LAND USE PLANS BY JANUARY 1, 1984
(WITH UNCOMPLETED PORTIONS COMPLETED BY A DESIGNEE OF THE COURT);

- SUNSETTING LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS, AND POSSIBLY CREATING A LAND USE COURT;

- ONE APPEAL OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BEFORE SUPREME COURT REVIEW;

- ALLOWING LCDC PLAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT "ONE PIECE AT A TIME" INSTEAD OF ALL OR NOTHING ("SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE");

- REWRITING GOAL 9 -- THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL;

- ANOTHER LOOK AT AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATIONS IN GOAL 3, AND INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN THE FORESTRY GOAL.

A SECOND PACKAGE WE ARE ASSEMBLING IS OUR FORESTRY PACKAGE. THIS PACKAGE WILL INCLUDE:

- CREATION OF A MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY;

- CREATING A FOREST PRODUCTS COMMODITY COMMISSION, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPORT FINISHED FOREST PRODUCTS AND INCREASE DOMESTIC SALES OF OREGON WOOD PRODUCTS.

WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON OUR FISH ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE. WE WILL NOT INCREASE LICENSE FEES, BUT WE WILL BE MAKING A MAJOR SERIES OF PRODUCTION INCREASES AND TAKING NEW MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES. NONE OF THESE WILL REQUIRE ANY MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

IN THE AREA OF CRIME, AND OUR COURT SYSTEM, I WILL BE FOLLOWING UP VERY STRONGLY ON THE 7-POINT ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM I INTRODUCED LAST SUMMER. THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REINSTATING THE WILL OF OREGONIANS ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (THE 1978 BALLOT MEASURE HAD TECHNICAL DEFICIENCIES WHICH THIS AMENDMENT WILL CORRECT);

- ABOLISHING THE INSANITY PLEA IN CRIMINAL CASES;

- PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ANTI-CRIME FUNDING FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND THEIR DEPUTIES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL, AND FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE;

- INCREASING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL PROSECUTORS;

- PROVIDING MONEY FOR MORE JAIL CELLS;

- ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO INCREASE THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CAPACITY OF STATE POLICE, WHO CAN IN TURN BETTER ASSIST LOCAL POLICE EFFORTS; AND

- IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY MY SPECIAL COMMISSION AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME. THIS GROUP IS ALREADY MEETING -- AND WILL BE REPORTING BACK TO ME WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTION.

WE ARE ALSO CONTINUING STRONGLY OUR EFFORTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE INTEND TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM WE HAVE BEGUN IN BOTH OF THESE AREAS.

IN HIGHER EDUCATION, WE ARE SEEING SOME EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES UNDERWAY. CHANCELLOR BUD DAVIS HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE BOTH IN PROMOTING A NEW SPIRIT OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, AND IN STRONGLY ENCOURAGING A DIRECT ROLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. WE ARE NOW SEEING PRIVATE INDUSTRY TAKE A LARGER ROLE THAN EVER BEFORE IN SHAPING THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS WE MUST HAVE FOR OREGON'S FUTURE. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS THE \$3.5 MILLION DONATION FOR HI-TECH EDUCATION ANNOUNCED BY TEKTRONIX. I HAVE MADE HIGHER EDUCATION A PRIORITY IN MY BUDGET PROCESS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING RENEWED EXCELLENCE TO OUR SYSTEM.

IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY AT WORK. THIS MONTH WE ARE FINALIZING A SERIES OF ADDITIONAL STEPS FOR INTRODUCTION AT THE '83 LEGISLATURE. THOUGH THE DETAILS AWAIT COMPLETION OF THE BUDGET PROCESS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE WILL CONTINUE MY STRONG COMMITMENT TO MAKING SURE THAT STATE GOVERNMENT WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR LOCAL EFFORTS. I INTEND TO SEE THE STATE BECOME BETTER EQUIPPED THAN EVER BEFORE TO ACTIVELY ASSIST YOU AND EVERY LOCAL JURISDICTION, TO COORDINATE OUR INFORMATION, TO POOL OUR STRATEGIES, AND TO HELP EACH OTHER WITH SITING, WITH PERMITS, AND WITH LAND USE REQUIREMENTS.

LET ME CLOSE BY EMPHASIZING FOR YOU ONCE AGAIN THAT OUR FINAL PACKAGES WILL BE COMPLETE VERY SOON. WE WILL BE MAKING OUR FIRST BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AFTER DECEMBER 1ST, AND WILL BE MAKING FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OUR PLANNING MOVES FORWARD.

AND I WANT TO TELL YOU ALSO THAT THERE ARE NO ILLUSIONS IN SALEM ABOUT THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. I KNOW HOW THE COUNTIES HAVE SUFFERED. I KNOW HOW YOUR REVENUES HAVE DROPPED -- JUST AS THE STATE'S REVENUES HAVE PLUMMETED IN THIS RECESSION.

THESE HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TIMES FOR ALL OF US. BUT I WANT TO BE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT WHAT WE FACE. BECAUSE WE HAVE REASON TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. WE HAVE REASON TO LOOK FORWARD TO MUCH BRIGHTER TIMES AHEAD THAN THE TIMES WE HAVE GONE THROUGH IN RECENT YEARS. AND WE HAVE REASON TO BE THANKFUL.

THE FINANCIAL BASE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OREGON SURVIVED THIS ELECTION. OREGONIANS SHOWED THAT THEY ARE WISE ENOUGH, COMPASSIONATE ENOUGH, AND FORWARD-THINKING ENOUGH TO SEE THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNTHINKING REACTIONISM.

BUT OREGONIANS HAVE TOLD US -- IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS -- THAT THEY WANT A FAIR AND MEANINGFUL REMEDY FOR THE TAX BURDEN THEY FACE. IT IS OUR JOB TO MAKE IT HAPPEN -- OR BALLOT MEASURE 3 WILL BE BACK. THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE FACED BY EACH ONE OF US.

YES, THESE ARE TIMES OF DIFFICULTY AND RETRENCHMENT. BUT I BELIEVE -- I KNOW -- THERE ARE BETTER TIMES AHEAD OF US. WE WILL MEET THE CHALLENGES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEM. THE INDICATORS FOR OREGON ARE VERY GOOD. WE WILL BE HERE TO SEE OUR ECONOMY RECOVER. AND WE WILL EMERGE FROM THIS RECESSION WITH STRONGER, LEANER, BETTER-MANAGED GOVERNMENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

OREGON HAS A VERY ROBUST FUTURE AHEAD. OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, WITH YOUR HELP, WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE FINEST IN THE WORLD.

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AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON YOUR SKILLS, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND YOUR TALENTS TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. BECAUSE IT IS YOUR SKILL IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY THAT WILL BUILD THE BETTER FUTURE WE WILL SEE IN OREGON TOMORROW, AND FOR MANY TOMORROWS TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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