

REMARKS, GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
OREGON NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS
CHUMAREE-RODEWAY INN - AIRPORT, PORTLAND
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

I KNOW THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS THAT THE CHIEF METEOROLOGISTS OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR POST IN OREGON.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU, YOUR SPOUSES AND GUESTS; AND TO EXTEND A SPECIAL OREGON WELCOME TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR HAZEN BEDKE, WHO JOINS US HERE FROM THE DIFFERENT WEATHER OF SALT LAKE CITY.

THIS CONFERENCE UNDERLINES TWO SUBJECTS OF GREAT CONCERN TO OREGON: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK YOU DO AS METEOROLOGISTS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EVERY AREA OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

IN FACT, YOUR WORK IS ONE OF OUR BEST EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE IN STATE AND FEDERAL COOPERATION. EVERY FEDERAL AND STATE EMPLOYEE IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT KNOWS HOW MUCH OREGON RELIES ON YOUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER. THROUGHOUT OUR STATE, WE CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON YOU FOR THE BEST, MOST UP-TO-DATE WEATHER INFORMATION, FORECASTS, AND EARLY WARNINGS FOR OUR CITIZENS.

IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO SAY THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY HEALTH OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCE BASE AND ECONOMY ARE IN NO SMALL MEASURE DEPENDENT ON THE WORK YOU DO. SIDE-BY-SIDE STATE AND FEDERAL COOPERATION IS CRITICAL FOR THE FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS OF OUR DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY. OUR FARMERS AND OUR AGRICULTURE DEPEND UPON OUR WORK TOGETHER IN AGRICULTURE FORECASTS. OUR COASTAL POPULATION AND FISHING INDUSTRY DEPEND UPON THE STATE/ FEDERAL EFFORTS THAT PRODUCE MARINE ADVISORIES AND SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS. AND OUR COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES WORK WITH YOU AND DEPEND UPON YOU FOR FLOOD AND STORM WARNINGS THAT ALLOW US TO PREPARE FOR ANY WEATHER EMERGENCY--- PRESERVING LIVES AND PROPERTY THROUGHOUT OREGON.

WE HAVE BUILT A UNIQUELY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OVER THE YEARS---A RELATIONSHIP THAT PRESERVES THE WELL BEING OF BOTH OUR CITIZENS AND OUR RESOURCES.

IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THAT RELATIONSHIP STAND AS FIRMLY AND AS SOLIDLY IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.

I HAVE BEEN DISTURBED TO SEE RECENT FEDERAL BUDGETS PROPOSE SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN FIRE WEATHER SERVICES FOR FORESTRY, AS WELL AS MAJOR CURTAILMENTS IN AGRICULTURE WEATHER SERVICES. THE FISCAL 1983 BUDGET PROPOSED THE CLOSURE OF FIRE WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES IN SALEM, MEDFORD, AND PENDLETON.

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT CONGRESS VERY WISELY REJECTED THESE PROPOSALS, AND FUNDED THE PROGRAM AT CURRENT LEVELS THROUGHOUT THIS FISCAL YEAR.

BUT---AS MANY OF YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW---IT LOOKS AS THOUGH OREGON MAY NOT BE OUT OF THE WOODS YET. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEWLY-ISSUED FISCAL 1984 BUDGET INDICATES THAT SUBSTANTIAL CUTS ARE ONCE AGAIN PROPOSED IN BOTH FIRE WEATHER AND AGRICULTURAL WEATHER SERVICES.

I AM A GOVERNOR WITH A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN CUTTING BUDGETS. AND I KNOW BY NOW THAT THERE ARE GOOD WAYS AND BAD WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD FOR FOUR YEARS IN DEVELOPING LEAN STATE BUDGETS FOR OREGON. WHEN WE HAVE CUT, WE HAVE MADE CAREFUL, SELECTIVE CUTS TO BRING OUR STATE BUDGET IN LINE WITH FISCAL SENSE AND ECONOMIC REALITY---WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MINIMIZING WHEREVER POSSIBLE THE IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND SERVICES.

THAT IS WHY I KNOW THAT SHORT-TERM CUTS MUST NOT AND SHOULD NEVER PLACE IN JEOPARDY LONG TERM RESOURCES---WHETHER NATURAL, HUMAN, OR ECONOMIC.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. THIS YEAR---DESPITE VERY LIMITED STATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES---I HAVE RECOMMENDED RENEWED STATE FUNDING TO REVITALIZE OUR WAR AGAINST TIMBER PESTS AND DISEASES. I HAVE DONE SO BECAUSE WE KNOW THESE FORCES ARE IN THE MIDST OF A CYCLICAL BUILDUP-----AND WITHOUT STRONG ACTION SOON, INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES WILL DO TREMENDOUS DAMAGE TO OREGON'S IRREPLACEABLE FORESTS AND TIMBER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CASCADES.

THE ACTION WE TAKE TODAY, THOUGH DIFFICULT, WILL HELP PRESERVE THE ECONOMY OF OUR FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME---TO BRING THIS EXAMPLE DIRECTLY TO YOU---I MUST SAY THAT I WILL ALSO FIGHT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE TIMBER WE SAVE FROM PESTS AND DISEASE TODAY WILL NOT BE LOST IN THE FUTURE BECAUSE OF FIRE DAMAGE.

BECAUSE OF YOUR EXCELLENT EFFORTS IN COOPERATION WITH US IN STATE GOVERNMENT, FOREST FIRES IN OREGON TODAY CAN BE SPOTTED AND EARLY WARNINGS GIVEN STATEWIDE. BUT I FEAR THAT, IF WE LOSE OUR CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES, THE SAME WILL NOT BE SAID OF OREGON TOMORROW.

SO WHEN I CONGRATULATE THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FOR THEIR HISTORY OF STRONG COOPERATION WITH OUR STATE---I MUST AT THE SAME TIME ASK ALL OF YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN STRONGLY DEFENDING A VERY GOOD OPERATION FROM A SERIES OF VERY BAD IDEAS.

IN ANY EVENT, I KNOW THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THE COOPERATION, ENTHUSIASM, AND THE PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE THAT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ALWAYS SHOWN US IN OREGON.

IN WELCOMING YOU TONIGHT, I TRUST THAT OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE FAR INTO THE FUTURE.

AND---NEEDLESS TO SAY---I AM VERY HAPPY TO ADDRESS THE ONLY GROUP IN OREGON THAT CAN DISPROVE THE OLD SAYING: "EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, BUT NOBODY DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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