

SCORP EXCHANGE COUNCIL ADDRESS

This is the first Annual Meeting of the SCORP Exchange Council since I signed the Executive Order creating it in 1975. ~~Since that~~
~~When~~ The Council has grown from an initial group of ~~about~~ 170 persons to a ~~present membership of~~ around 500 individuals. The response to this idea has far exceeded anything we had hoped for. I think it proves that people are still willing to get involved in the work of their government if they are only given a ~~genuine~~ opportunity. Representatives of government on all levels - state, federal and local - have joined hands with private citizens and businessmen in a voluntary effort to assist the State of South Carolina with recreation planning and development.

The Council was created ~~for three main reasons~~ ~~the first~~ ~~which was~~ to provide input into the South Carolina Overall Recreation Plan ~~our~~ (SCORP). During ~~the~~ first year, the Council was ~~given~~ ^{called} the opportunity to assist with the 5-Year update of the SCORP. ~~the~~ The results of that involvement have been extremely gratifying. The SCORP has been ~~significantly~~ modified by the Council in several ways. ~~the~~ ^{one major change was} ~~most important of which is~~ the addition of an Annual Action Objective Program ^{which} ~~that~~ calls for the continued involvement of the Council on an annual basis.

^{the Council has sought} ~~The second reason was to find~~ new and innovative ways to fund and finance recreation development. A great many ideas and suggestions have been put forth ~~by the Council~~ in this regard and many seem very promising. Perhaps the most significant of these activities to date is the ~~concern for and promotion of the concept of~~ multiple and joint-use ^{concept} ~~throughout the Council~~ - getting more from what we already have instead of spending more and more money for new facilities. There will always be a ^{call} ~~need~~ for new land and facilities, but we can no longer afford to

rush into development projects until we have determined if our needs might not be met with existing resources. ~~Just as we were~~ Sometimes it seems easier to ~~simply~~ build additional resources ~~because~~ because the alternative requires innovative thinking and a willingness ~~if by doing~~ instances to cooperate with the other organizations and individuals. I would submit to you that our citizens demand no less of us, be it on the state or local level. ~~for~~ The Council is to be congratulated for helping to show that multiple use of public facilities is a viable alternative to additional expenditures. Taxpayers will get more for their money ~~through investments~~ in recreation facilities as a direct result of the SCORP Council's joint and multiple use program.

The third reason ~~for~~ the Council's ^{has provided} ~~creation~~ ^{is} perhaps the most important in the long run. ~~that was to provide~~ a voluntary organization that could bring together all recreation interest in the state... to get them talking to one another and ~~working~~ working together to solve common problems and discover common opportunities. ^{this} ~~the spirit~~

~~with which individual members and organizations within the Council have begun to work together to seize opportunities to improve and expand~~ ^{this} ~~spirit of of togetherness is most gratifying.~~ ~~recreation has been gratifying in the extreme.~~ In late 1975, the Department of the Interior awarded South Carolina the Recreation Achievement Award for the creation of the SCORP Exchange Council.

~~When then~~ I don't believe any of us ^{could} realized what a ~~significant~~ significant recreation achievement ~~it really was~~ ^{the Council would be}.

I am particularly proud of the involvement of private citizens in the Council. ~~Without~~ Without that, our job could ~~never~~ ^{not} be done. Government officials talking to government officials is ~~a~~ good thing - ~~at least it is better than them not talking at all~~ But much more ~~can~~ ^{has been} accomplished ~~by~~ governmental representatives ~~can~~ ^{ing} interact with private citizens and businessmen. ~~exchanging ideas and sharing exper-~~ ~~tise in a cooperative effort.~~

~~I think it is extremely valuable that business interest are a part of this organization.~~ The recreational needs of our state are great ^{er than the government coopers,} ~~and there is certainly a major role that government must play in meeting these needs.~~ ^{But they must be ever aware} ~~that a major~~ ^{the} portion of recreation services are being provided by private industry.

Free enterprise is the backbone of South Carolina's leisure industry. I am happy that "profit" is not a dirty word in our recreation and tourism business, which has remained healthy during this period of economic stress. South Carolina not only is serving the recreation needs of our citizens, but last year we also attracted 33 million visitors. These non-residents travelers spent over a billion dollars and they paid \$80 million in taxes into our State Treasury.

Government cannot and should not attempt to meet all recreation needs - it is only through strong private industry involvement in recreation; working in cooperation and with the support of government, that all our recreation needs can be met. It is because of this belief that I was glad to see the Council Board recommend the organization of a new Advisory Committee for large landowning corporations and individuals. ^{that also} ~~and the~~ ^{ed} ~~creation of~~ a new Executive Committee position to represent the Private Business Sector membership of the Council. ~~can announce that~~ I have issued an amendment of Executive Order 75-2 to reflect these changes.

Working with the many individuals and interests on the Council, we have all come to the realization that recreation must be visualized in its broadest sense. Recreation is not only parks, playgrounds and playing fields, but the arts and all that they imply, it is nature and boating trails, sports shooting ranges, natural areas where one can get away from everything, it is anything that allows a person to re-create himself and his spirit. Recreation is something for everyone,

and we must insure that there are adequate recreation opportunities for all our people, not only the able-bodied but the handicapped and the elderly as well. [These are some of the challenges facing the SCORP Exchange Council and South Carolina as we carry this effort forward. I am grateful to each of you for what we have been able to accomplish, and look forward to new successes in the future.

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