

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
CAROLINA BRANCH - ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA, INC.  
OCTOBER 26, 1976

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE FOR ME TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO BEING WITH MY FRIENDS...THE TRUE BUILDERS OF AMERICA.

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY ABOUT A CONTRACTING FRIEND OF MINE, WHO WAS HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE AFFAIR TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF A NEW SHOP AND SHOWROOM.

HE SAID, "IF MY DOCTOR COULD SEE ME WITH THE CHAMPAGNE AND CAVIAR, HE'D GO CRAZY."

"WHY?" I ASK<sup>ED</sup> "ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON A DIET?"

"NAH," HE SAID. "I OWN HIM \$500."

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE WHOLE WORLD IS CONCENTRATING ON MONEY THESE DAYS. AS THE MONEY MARKET GOES, SO GOES THE TOTAL WELFARE OF OUR NATION.

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE NOW, THERE HAS BEEN A MIGRATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES OUT OF THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST LOOKING TO THE SOUTH AND MORE PARTICULARLY THE CAROLINA'S FOR A NEW HOME FOR THEIR PLANTS AND DOLLAR INVESTMENTS.

IN 1974, 27 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S 500 LARGEST FIRMS HAD THEIR HOME OFFICES IN NEW YORK STATE. IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, 42 OF THOSE COMPANIES HAVE LEFT THE NORTH. ALMOST 32 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S 1,200 LARGEST FIRMS ARE NOW CONSIDERING MOVES TO NEW AREAS FOR ESTABLISHING REGIONAL OFFICES. THE CAROLINAS ARE ONE POTENTIAL MOVEMENT AREA FOR ALL OF THESE COMPANIES.

THERE ARE MANY CAUSES FOR THIS INFLUX OF INDUSTRY.

THE SOUTH TRADITIONALLY HAS NOT LOOKED UPON PROFIT AS A DIRTY WORD. WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE TO PURSUE THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

IN GOVERNMENT, WE SUPPORT THE PROFIT MAKING SYSTEM AND REALIZE IT TO BE THE PRIME MOTIVATING FACTOR FOR NEW INDUSTRIES TO LOCATE IN OUR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

IN 1975, OVER \$52 BILLION WAS SPENT FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. AN ADDITIONAL \$3.8 BILLION WAS SPENT DURING THE 1976 FISCAL YEAR.

PROJECTIONS AND TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR 1977 AND 1978 INDICATE AN OVERALL INCREASE OF MORE THAN 13 PERCENT DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

IF WE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE OUR FAIR SHARE OF NEW AND RELOCATING BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES, THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TO ENHANCE OUR MARKETABILITY.

IN LIGHT OF TOMORROWS ELECTIONS, I WOULD CAUTION ALL OF YOU TO INSURE THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RIGHT TO WORK LAWS. ONE OF THE KEY REASONS WHY BUSINESSMEN INDICATE THEY ARE RELOCATING FROM THE NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST IS DUE TO THE UNIONIZATION OF ALL FACTORS OF LABOR.

THE RIGHT TO WORK LAWS ENSURE THE SOUTHEAST AS BEING A LOW COST AREA IN WHICH TO DO BUSINESS.

THE REMOVAL OF OUR RIGHT TO WORK LAWS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE DEMANDS FOR HIGHER SALARIES WITHOUT CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY.

THREE OUT OF FOUR PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES OPPOSE UNIONIZATION AND FAVOR RIGHT TO WORK PRINCIPLES ACCORDING TO A POLL BY OPINION RESEARCH CORPORATION OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

THOSE OF YOU IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ARE WELL AWARE OF THE MANAGEMENT LABOR RELATIONSHIPS AND THE INSUING INCREASED COST OF DOING BUSINESS.

AS ONE OF OUR PRIME ATTRACTIONS OF INCOMING INDUSTRIES, WE  
MUST, AT ALL COST, PRESERVE THE RIGHT TO WORK LAWS IN EACH  
STATE OF THE UNION.

A SECOND MAJOR HURTLER OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE SOUTHEAST IS THE EROSION OF PRODUCTIVITY-ORIENTED CAPITAL TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF NEW POLLUTION ABATEMENT LEGISLATION. IN 1975, \$6.9 BILLION WERE SPENT ON ABATEMENT. IN 1976, \$7.4 BILLION WAS SPENT, AND PROJECTIONS RANGE TO \$10 BILLION ANNUALLY BY 1980.

OBVIOUSLY, WITH THIS TYPE OF CAPITAL OUTLAY BEING USED IN A NONPRODUCTIVITY AREA, GROWTH IN NEW PLANTS AND INDUSTRY WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTED.

WE NOW HAVE REGULATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ON WATER QUALITY, DISPOSAL OF REFUSE, RADIOLOGY, GROUND WATER SUPPLIES, LAND EROSION, MULTIPLE USE, AND COASTLINE PROTECTION.

I AM A STRONG SUPPORTER OF PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...HOWEVER, NOT TO THE POINT OF FRUSTRATING ECONOMIC GROWTH. I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE LEGISLATION WHICH DESTROYS THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.

I STAND FIRM AGAINST LEGISLATIVE ACTION WHICH REMOVES LOCAL JURISDICTION OVER LOCALLY OWNED PROPERTIES.

WE MUST ALL WORK TO BLOCK AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CLEAN AIR ACT. I AM CONVINCED THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT NOT ONLY IN MY HOME STATE, BUT THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST. IT WOULD UNEQUIVOCALLY LIMIT NEW INDUSTRY AND NEW LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS WHERE AIR QUALITY WOULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL FACTOR.

IN WALTON, NEW YORK, A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE TO CONSTRUCT A \$9 MILLION SEWER SYSTEM WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE ONE INDUSTRY AND ONLY 10% OF THE RESIDENTS OF WALTON BROUGHT WITH IT A \$2500 TAX COST TO EVERY PERSON LIVING IN THAT COMMUNITY.

THIS TYPE OF IRRESPONSIBLE FEDERAL INTERVENTION CANNOT BE TOLERATED.

THE SOUTHEAST MUST BE ON GUARD AGAINST OVER-SPECIALIZATION. OUR MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IS HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN NONDURABLE GOODS. WE SHOULD CONSIDER EXPANDING INTO AREAS INCLUDING DURABLE GOODS, SERVICES, AND HIGH-TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES TO UTILIZE LOCAL GRADUATES FROM OUR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

WE NEED TO DEVELOP A BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE NEED INDUSTRIES THAT RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT.

WE NEED TO STABILIZE AND PRESERVE OUR RURAL AND SMALL TOWN CHARACTERS WHICH ARE SYMBOLIC OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINIANS.

WE NEED TO LOOK TO OUR RURAL AREAS WITH PRIME DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. WE NEED TO DEVELOP AND ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP IN BOTH OUR LARGE AND SMALL COMMUNITIES.

WE NEED TO CREATE A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION TO ORGANIZE AND HELP FINANCE NEW PLANTS COMING INTO OUR AREA.

WE NEED TO LOOK TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF POTENTIAL SITES AND BUILDINGS FOR INDUSTRY.

WE NEED TO FORMULATE AN ECONOMIC TEAM TO WORK WITH THE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND OTHER INTERESTED CITIZENS GROUPS TO SEEK OUT PROSPECTIVE INDUSTRIES. THIS GROUP WOULD BE A PRIME BENEFIT TO SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES.

I CALL UPON EACH OF YOU TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PROMOTION AND THE FURTHERANCE OF GROWTH NOT ONLY IN THE GREENVILLE AREA BUT THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA. THE NET RESULT OF CONTROLLED GROWTH WILL BE REFLECTED DIRECTLY IN AN