

Speech
May 1976

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS
SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL
PALMETTO DUNES, HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1976, 7:30 P.M.

One of my major concerns over the years has been the ever-increasing regulation of our lives. In business, personal affairs/and in state and local government,/the federal government has piled regulation upon regulation--creating both confusion and restriction of private enterprise.

[Non-elected officials
63,000
14,000]

I believe the role of the state and local governments can be a major force in slowing/and perhaps reversing/the trend of federal government domination in our states.

I was pleased to learn that in the mid-term meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General, you spoke out strongly against this increasing regulation and duplication by the federal government.

I agree with you that we have reached a point where regulations are fast becoming the "supreme law of the land"...This has been to the detriment of rights and freedoms guaranteed in both federal and state constitutions.

*Con Edison -
Catalytic Converter
Union Carbide*

A famous South Carolinian, John C. Calhoun, was far ahead of his time when he criticized increasing federal control in the early 1800's. He argued that the states should determine their own affairs in the best interests of their people. This concept was lost in the conflict of the Civil War and in the following years. But today, when we see almost every phase of public and private life affected by federal government regulation, we are more convinced of Calhoun's far-sighted wisdom.

Aside from the strangling effect that these regulations have on our business and industry/~~community~~, I am deeply concerned about the effects they have on our personal lives. I am afraid that without substantial changes in the current trend, the American people may lose much of their personal freedoms.

There is no clear cut authority to over-ride the regulatory agencies of our federal government. Apparently the Congress has not accepted the responsibility of pulling in the reins of the agencies.

*Biggest Problem
94th Congress
Diff between Congress +
Boy Scout Troop*

~~The only positive step has been the Federal Commission on Paper work. But, I sincerely doubt that it will tackle the problem of restrictive and harmful regulation.~~

The other side-effects of this over-regulation are equally dangerous. The cost of over-regulation can be measured in billions of dollars...in costs to the taxpayer, the businessman and the consumer.

It is my hope that the states will take the lead in reversing this trend. As you know, in cases where regulation has been left to the states, it has been generally reasonable and conducive to progress. The old concept of "government is best when it is closest to the people," holds true today.

I commend the Attorneys General for the stand they have taken on this issue. I encourage you to work toward a reduction in regulations that are wasteful and unnecessarily restrictive.

We can see concrete examples where our states have taken positive steps to improve and streamline government. I think we can play a major role in reforming the federal government in similar ways.

As you are aware, judicial reform is an excellent example of this kind of progress.

Many states have moved to streamline our court systems / to make them more responsive to the needs of our society.

In South Carolina, the voters adopted a judicial reform amendment as a part of overall constitutional revision in 1973.

Our General Assembly passed a judicial reform package earlier this year. However, I was forced to veto that specific package because it did not contain sufficient provisions for impartial determination of qualifications of candidates for judgeships/and it failed to include a disciplinary procedure for the judiciary.

The General Assembly is now working on a revised package. In my opinion, any judicial reform measure must include these two vitally important provisions. Our state's Chief Justice, J. Woodrow Lewis, recently commented that "the bench and the bar have lost face in the eyes of the public"...I believe that these provisions will go a long way toward restoring the public trust in our judicial system.

Beyond that,/I think that this kind of reform/.reform that is both responsible and responsive to the needs of the public./..is an absolute must in today's society.

Whether we talk about reform of our judiciary at the state level or reform of federal regulations....we are talking about placing government back in its proper perspective.

Government's purpose, / in our ~~democracy~~ ^{republic} is to serve the people. / not be the master of the people.

People all across America are tired of government that operates on a politics as a usual basis. They want government at the local, state, and federal level to work for them. / not against them.

As government officials, one of our main jobs today is to return government to the people...through meaningful and intelligent reform.

- + Review Am. - Bicent. year
- + Problems Review - SE Asia etc -30-
- + Defense Review - Lost our ability to dominate international events.
- + Finance Review - Economics - Budget #
180 - 100B 62
- + Inflation / Rev. Amendment of Const. 9 - 200 71
- + Solzgentzen - Democracy 4 - 300 75
- + 2 - 400
- + Leadership vs. Followership -
Nixon's - "Biggest problem is 'in ourselves'" -
- + Rededication -