

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS
CONVENTION - INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 19, 1976

Viley Speeches

IT IS INDEED AN HONOR FOR ME TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING THIS GROUP COMPOSED OF SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE PALMETTO STATE.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM 15 OF THE LARGEST INSURANCE COMPANIES IN AMERICA ARE IN ATTENDANCE TODAY IN ADDITION TO MORE THAN 400 STATE MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY IDEAS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE AND WHAT IT HOLDS IN STORE FOR THE INSURANCE BUSINESS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES. 

I MUST COMMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA INSURANCE COMMISSION FOR THE TREMENDOUS JOB THIS AGENCY IS DOING IN OUR STATE DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES THEY FACE IN DEALING WITH A RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY.

IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A NATIONAL TREND TOWARDS OVER-REGULATION OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE WITNESSED TIME AND AGAIN SOME FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS ATTEMPTING TO TELL THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOW TO RUN THEIR BUSINESSES.

OFFENSIVE AS THIS TREND APPEARS TO US, UNFORTUNATELY MORE AND MORE PEOPLE HAVE SAID "LET THE GOVERNMENT DO IT." WE ARE NOW REAPING THE BENEFITS OF APATHY.

THIS TYPE OF REASONING MAY HAVE SEEMED ALL RIGHT DURING OUR YEARS OF AFFLUENCY ... BUT TODAY AMERICA IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.

WITH THE ELECTION TWO WEEKS AWAY, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WILL BE FACED WITH AT LEAST ONE CLEAR-CUT CHOICE WHEN THEY CAST THEIR BALLOTS. THIS CHOICE DEALS WITH FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IN THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, CONGRESS HAS CREATED 236 NEW FEDERAL AGENCIES AND SPENDS MORE THAN \$2 BILLION ANNUALLY FOR REGULATORY AGENCIES TO TELL US WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO.

OUR FEDERAL PAYROLLS COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER OVER \$43 BILLION EACH YEAR WITH A \$7 BILLION INCREASE FOR FEDERAL WORKERS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS ALONE. IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THE ACCUMULATIVE FEDERAL DEFICIT HAS BALLOONED TO \$123 BILLION.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN NO LONGER STAND THE STRAIN OF A BUREAUCRATIC LEECHING SYSTEM WHICH DRAINS OFF A TAX BURDEN EQUALING 45% OF THEIR INCOME. ONLY THROUGH SOUND AND BASIC FREE ENTERPRISE PRINCIPLES ... EMPHASIZING PRODUCTIVITY ... CAN WE HOPE TO REGAIN OUR RIGHTFUL IMAGE IN THE WORLD.

THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR HAS BROUGHT MANY SPEECHES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND GOVERNMENT REGULATION. LET'S NOT FORGET THAT OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT THE REVOLUTION AGAINST A GOVERNMENT THAT WAS TOO BIG AND TOO RESTRICTIVE FOR THEIR GROWING COMMERCE, TRADE, AND MANUFACTURING. THEY FOUGHT TO BECOME CAPTAINS OF THEIR OWN SHIP OF DESTINY.

AS YOU AND I SIT HERE TODAY, WE FIND OURSELVES BEING OVER-RUN BY 63,000 FEDERAL REGULATORS WHO MAY LIVE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM THOSE WHOM THEY REGULATE.

THIS FEDERAL DOMINATION EXTENDS TO OVER ONE-THIRD OF OUR COUNTRY'S LAND AND OCCUPIES ENOUGH OFFICE SPACE TO FILL 96 OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUILDINGS.

IN ONE YEAR'S TIME, THEY PRODUCE ENOUGH BUREAUCRATIC PAPERWORK TO FILL 11 WASHINGTON MONUMENTS. INCIDENTLY, THIS PAPERWORK COSTS US \$40 BILLION OR ABOUT \$800 PER FAMILY EACH YEAR.

IT'S NOT THE PAPERWORK THAT RIPS OFF THE TAXPAYER ... IT'S THE REGULATIONS.

WE MUST CUT THE SIZE OF BUREAUCRACY AND LOOSEN THE STRANGLEHOLD THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ON OUR LIVES. IF THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN CONGRESS CANNOT RESTORE COMMON SENSE,

IT IS TIME THAT WE JOIN TOGETHER TO SEND THEM A RESOUNDING
MESSAGE ON NOVEMBER 2ND.

I PLEDGE TO YOU TO CONTINUE MY BATTLE FOR THE REDUCTION
OF FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN ALL SEGMENTS OF THE FREE ENTER-
PRISE SYSTEM. I SALUTE EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THIS
ASSOCIATION AND CHALLENGE YOU TO GO FORWARD IN THE TRUEST
SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE.

THANK YOU