

ORANGEBURG

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BANQUET

SUGGESTED REMARKS BY

GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS

JANUARY 6, 1976

7:30 P. M.

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MEMBERS  
OF THE ORANGEBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND  
LOVELY LADIES . . . IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR  
ME TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO THE  
ROSE CAPITAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

WELL GO DOWN IN HISTORY NOT SO MUCH AS A CENTURY  
IN ADDITION TO YOUR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANTS,  
OF PROGRESS BUT AS THE CENTURY OF SUPERFICIALITY.  
YOUR WARM AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE, THE GARDEN ALONG  
THE SHORE OF THE EDISTO RIVER IS A CONSTANT  
REMINDER THAT ORANGEBURG IS MORE THAN A CITY OR  
A COUNTY . . . IT IS THE HOME OF PROUD SOUTH  
CAROLINIANS.

BEFORE I ENTER INTO MY REMARKS FOR TONIGHT ,

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON EACH AND EVERY PERSON

TO LEND YOUR FULL SUPPORT TO YOUR PUBLIC

OFFICIALS IN ALL SECTORS OF GOVERNMENT . DR.

BILLY GRAHAM ONCE STATED "THIS CENTURY COULD

WELL GO DOWN IN HISTORY NOT SO MUCH AS A CENTURY

OF PROGRESS BUT AS THE CENTURY OF SUPERFICIALITY."

I AND ALL THE LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT SOUTH

CAROLINA MUST HAVE YOUR SUPPORT IF WE ARE TO

WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN

MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE  
GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIVE AND  
RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

YOU, IN STATE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOY MORE THAN  
50,000 MEN AND WOMEN. THEY ARE DISPERSED  
THROUGHOUT NO LESS THAN 114 STATE AGENCIES.

THEY TAKE THEIR DIRECTIONS FROM VARIOUS APPOINTED  
BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS. BY YOUR NOT  
HAVING SERVED AS AN ELECTED STATE OFFICIAL, IT  
WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN

TO YOU THE COMPLEXITIES THAT MUST BE DEALT  
WITH ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS TO MEET THE NEEDS  
OF OUR 2.8 MILLION CITIZENS.

INVARIABLY, PEOPLE ASK WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR AN  
ORAL SURGEON TO AWAKEN ONE MORNING AS THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE. IT IS HUMBLING, NOT  
HEADY . . . OFTEN TIMES FRUSTRATING RATHER THAN  
FANTASTIC . . . THE VIEW FROM THE TOP IS A VIEW  
OF REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL AND PERSONAL NEEDS.  
IT IS OFTEN TIMES FRIGHTENING AND OFTEN TIMES

REWARDING. IT'S A VIEW THAT MAKES A MAN, ANY  
MAN TURN TO A HIGHER SOURCE OF GUIDANCE AND  
LEADERSHIP.

WHAT HAS ALL THIS TO DO WITH MY VISIT WITH YOU  
HERE TONIGHT? FIRST LET ME EXPLAIN SOME OF  
THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN STATE  
GOVERNMENT DURING MY ADMINISTRATION.

DESPITE THE SLOWDOWN IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY,  
SOUTH CAROLINA HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE PROGRESS

IN AREAS WHERE GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE A  
SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE IMPACT. I RECENTLY HAD  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE  
S. C. DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS  
WHICH WE HAVE MADE. DOES BEYOND EMPLOYMENT  
MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO, I CALLED FOR AN  
INDEPTH STUDY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S ECONOMY TO  
DETERMINE WHAT ROLE YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT COULD  
AND SHOULD PLAY TO ENHANCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR OUR PEOPLE.

YOU MAY VERY WELL HAVE THOUGHT THAT MY  
OPENING COMMENTS CONCERNING EDISTO GARDENS  
WAS JUST A SPEAKER'S PLOY, BUT I AM FIRMLY  
CONVINCED THAT THE TRUE MEASURE OF LIFE GOES  
BEYOND ECONOMY . . . GOES BEYOND EMPLOYMENT  
AND BEST EXPRESSES ITSELF AS COMMUNITY PRIDE.  
TO ME, YOUR LOVELY CITY SAYS YES WE ARE PROUD  
. . . IT SAYS YES WE DO CARE . . . IT SAYS YES WE  
ARE WILLING TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE.



IN SEEKING OUT MEANS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT  
AND ITS ACCOMPANYING SOCIAL ILLS, I CALLED FOR  
AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF OUR ENTIRE STATE.

SPECIFICALLY, I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT TYPES  
OF EMPLOYMENT WOULD BRING TO OUR PEOPLE

A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING . . . FINANCIALLY,

SOCIALLY AND PERSONALLY . . . AT THE SAME

TIME PRESERVE THE HISTORIC ASTHETIC VALUES

OF THE PALMETTO STATE.

AROUND AND ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD.

I GUESS IF JIM EDWARDS IS KNOWN FOR ONE THING

. . . IT IS FOR MY STANCE AGAINST CRIPPLING,

LIBERALIZED WELFARE GIVEAWAY PROGRAMS. IF

WE COULD ONLY FIND THE RIGHT CHANNELS TO

PUMP UNNECESSARY WELFARE SPENDING INTO

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE, I AM

CONVINCED THIS ALONE COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT

IMPACT IN THE FIELD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, EDUCATION,

HEALTH . . . THIS ALONE COULD TURN OUR STATE

AROUND AND ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD.

AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF YOUR STATE BE  
ASSURED THAT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS OBSERVE  
YOUR ACTIONS AND REFLECT THE WANTS, NEEDS  
AND DEMANDS THAT YOU . . . YOU ALONE MAKE.

I TELL YOU THIS NOT AS AN ATTACK ON STATE

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, THE VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES  
HAD REQUESTED 31.7 MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN  
OUR EXPECTED REVENUES. AGAIN THIS YEAR, WE  
HAD REQUESTS FOR 61.1 MILLION DOLLARS . . .

ABOVE AND BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO FINANCE. THESE

AS ALL OF YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, OUR NATIONAL

ECONOMY HAS BEEN SEVERELY TESTED. TIGHT MONEY

FUNDS WERE TO HAVE BEEN SPENT FOR VARIOUS  
AND SUNDRY PROGRAMS WHICH RUN THE GAMBIT OF  
THE HUMAN IMAGINATION.

I TELL YOU THIS NOT AS AN ATTACK ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT BUT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE  
PROLIFERATION OF HUMAN NEEDS IN A GROWING  
STATE . . . MY STATE, YOUR STATE . . . SOUTH  
CAROLINA.

AS ALL OF YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, OUR NATIONAL  
ECONOMY HAS BEEN SEVERELY TESTED. TIGHT MONEY

AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK  
OF THE 1970'S.

MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH THIS DECADE, WE  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION  
TOWARD THE FUTURE.

IN 1977, I SHALL CALL FOR MAJOR REVISIONS IN  
YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THESE REVISIONS  
WILL DEAL WITH THE EXPENDITURES OF OUR TAXPAYER'S  
MONEY . . . THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE,

JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.

THERE WILL BE A CALL FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL REFORM.

WHEN I WAS A SMALL BOY GROWING UP ON THE SHORES  
OF THE WANDO RIVER . . . CATCHING FIDDLER CRABS

IN THE ISLAND MARSH . . . SCARCELY DID I LOOK

BEHIND . . . MY VISIONS WERE THE SIGHTS TO BE

SEEN AROUND THE BEND OR THE FISH TO BE CAUGHT

WITH MY BAIT BUCKET IN HAND. HOW SAD THAT WE

AS ADULTS SPEND MORE TIME IN RETROSPECT

OVER WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RATHER THAN

OBTAINING OUR YOUTHFUL VISIONS OF TOMORROW.

HERE IN SOUTH CAROLINA . . . THERE IS A WIDE,

WONDERFUL WORLD FOR ALL IF ONLY WE WILL

DETERMINE NOW WHAT OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

SHOULD BE AND THEN MAKE THE MOMENTARY

SACRIFICES WHICH ULTIMATELY LEAD TO ATTAINMENT.