

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

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.
SOUTH CAROLINA HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE PROGRESS
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.
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,
SOCIALY 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.

HERE IN SOUTH CAROLINA . . . THERE IS A WIDE,
WONDERFUL WORLD FOR ALL IF ONLY WE WILL

OF THE WANDO RIVER . . . CATCHING FIDDLER CRABS
DETERMINE NOW WHAT OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

IN
IN THE ISLAND MARSH . . . SCARCELY DID I LOOK
SHOULD BE AND THEN MAKE THE MOMENTARY

BEHIND . . . MY VISIONS WERE THE SIGHTS TO BE
SACRIFICES WHICH ULTIMATELY LEAD TO ATTAINMENT.

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.