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Issues of the 113th G.A., March 2, 1979

Vern Riffe

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INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Speech

TO Speaker Riffe DATE March 2, 1979

FROM: Ann

SUBJECT: Speech for the UAW-CAP Council

Legislative Conference - March 6, 1979

--The representatives from all the Ohio UAW local unions will be attending.

--They want you to review the legislative issues of the 113th General Assembly.

--You will be given approximately 15 minutes to speak. Please leave a few minutes for questions.

FEB 22 RECD



OFFICERS
BILL CASSTEVENS
DIR. REGION 2 U.A.W.
RAY ROSS
DIR. REGION 2A U.A.W.
JOSEPH TOMASI
DIR. REGION 2B U.A.W.

OHIO STATE U.A.W. COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM COUNCIL

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

February 21, 1979

IN REPLY:
OHIO STATE UAW-CAP
133 E. LIVINGSTON AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43218
EDGAR C. HINTON
STATE COORDINATOR
PHONE AREA CODE 614
464-2055

Members of the 113th
Ohio General Assembly

The Ohio State UAW-CAP Council is holding a Legislative Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 6 and 7, 1979. Attending the Conference will be representatives from all the Ohio UAW Local Unions.

On the evening of March 6th from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. you are cordially invited to attend a cocktail party and buffet dinner in honor of the 113th Ohio General Assembly, being held at

HOWARD JOHNSON'S MOTOR LODGE
State Route 161 and Interstate 71
(999 E. Granville Road)
Columbus, Ohio

Sincerely,

Bill Casstevens
Bill Casstevens, Director
Region 2, UAW

Joseph Tomasi
Joseph Tomasi, Director
Region 2-B, UAW

Ray Ross
Ray Ross, Director
Region 2-A, UAW

Edgar C. Hinton
Edgar C. Hinton, State Coordinator
Ohio State UAW-CAP Council

BC:RR:JT:ECH/khw
opeiu#494

RSVP

SPEECH FOR THE UAW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

*Thanks for all of
the help last
Fall.*

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO ADDRESS YOUR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE.

I ALWAYS ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM
ALL THE OHIO UAW LOCAL UNIONS.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL EXERCISE
FAIRNESS IN DILIGENTLY WORKING TO SEEK REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO OUR
COMPLEX PROBLEMS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO MAKE OHIO A BETTER
PLACE TO LIVE.

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE ISSUES FACING THE
113TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOU
AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS AND AS CITIZENS OF OHIO.

*Bill Costen
Ray Rose
Joe Tomaric*

*Ed Hunter
John Shaker
Charles
Cowan*

*UAW # 856
Cliff Skeen
Right hand
man.
Vice Chairman
Business & Labor*

-- SUPREME COURT DECLARED OHIO'S LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL IN 1978.

-- THE LEGISLATURE MUST DRAFT A PROPOSAL WHICH CONFORMS TO THE
U.S. SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES.

-- THE NEW PROPOSAL EXPANDS THE LIST OF MITIGATING FACTORS.

-- IS AN EMOTIONAL AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE.

THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON
AMENDED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 74 SOMETIME THIS SUMMER.

VI. "BOTTLE BILL"

THIS SESSION, "BOTTLE BILL" LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
LAWMAKER'S DOCKET BY INITIATIVE PETITION.

-- PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A MANDATORY 10¢ DEPOSIT ON BEVERAGE CANS
AND BOTTLES.

-- BILL WOULD BAN PULL TABS ON CANS.

-- WOULD TAKE EFFECT 2 YEARS AFTER PASSAGE.

THE OHIO ALLIANCE FOR RETURNABLES CIRCULATED PETITIONS. THE LEGISLATURE NOW HAS FOUR MONTHS TO PASS A PROPOSAL IN A FORM SATISFACTORY TO THE ALLIANCE.

AFTER FOUR MONTHS, THE OHIO ALLIANCE FOR RETURNABLES MAY SEEK TO SECURE THE SIGNATURES OF AN ADDITIONAL 92,000 VOTERS AND HAVE THE PROPOSAL PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER, 1979 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.

-- BILL IS IN THE HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

-- TESTIMONY HAS BEEN HELD FOR FOUR WEEKS.

-- WILL BE VOTED UPON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1979.

VII. OPIC PROPOSAL

PETITIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN CIRCULATED FOR A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD DRASTICALLY INCREASE BUSINESS TAXES WHILE LOWERING THE PROPERTY TAX FOR LOWER INCOME HOMEOWNERS AND RENT PAYERS.

-- THE PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED AS A BILL.

-- SPONSORED BY THE OHIO PUBLIC INTEREST CAMPAIGN.

-- THE LEGISLATURE IS WATCHING THE COURT CHALLENGE TO THE PETITIONS.

-- IF INTRODUCED, THE PROPOSAL WILL BEGIN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THE SENATE.

VIII. FUEL ADJUSTMENT LEGISLATION

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING VARIOUS MEASURES RELATING TO THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE.

-- SEVERAL BILLS PROHIBIT THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE.

-- SEVERAL BILLS LIMIT THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE.

-- WILL BE A BIG ISSUE OF THE 113TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IX. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

HOUSE BILL 184, A WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEASURE PASSED THE HOUSE LAST WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1979.

-- CLARIFIED THE FACT THAT A SELF INSURANCE STATUS UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE.

-- MAKES CERTAIN THAT THE FIRST 12 WEEKS OF TEMPORARY TOTAL IS CALCULATED ON THE CLAIMANT'S FULL WEEKLY WAGE.

X. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

HOUSE BILL 42 WOULD ELIMINATE THE WAITING WEEK PERIOD FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

-- THE WAITING WEEK DENIES UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

-- PROPOSAL WOULD HELP THE LAID OFF EMPLOYEE.

-- WILL IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO CLAIMANTS.

-- THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED PASSAGE.

-- NOW IN RULES COMMITTEE FOR SCHEDULING OF FLOOR DEBATE AND VOTE.

IV. OTHER LEGISLATIVE GOALS BASIC TO THE GROWTH AND QUALITY OF
LIFE IN OHIO

- THE MAINTENANCE OF OHIO'S SYSTEM OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.
- KEEP JOB OPPORTUNITIES STRONG.
- MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION LEGISLATION.
- ASSURE THAT OUR CORRECTIONS SYSTEM MUST BE APPROPRIATE,

EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE.

- ENSURE FAIR UTILITY RATES.
- ENSURE FAIR HEALTH CARE COSTS. *- Correction*
- OUR ENERGY SOURCES MUST BE CONSERVED AND DEVELOPED.

V. DEATH PENALTY LEGISLATION

THE OHIO HOUSE VOTED ON FEBRUARY 21, 1979, BY A 62-36 VOTE, TO
RESTORE THE DEATH PENALTY IN OHIO.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 74, SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE
TERRY TRANTER, WILL NOW GO TO THE OHIO SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION.

XI. PRODUCT LIABILITY

SENATE BILL 67 PROPOSES A PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW FOR OHIO.

-- PARALLELS HOUSE BILL 319 OF THE 112TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

-- LIMITS THE LIABILITY OF THE MANUFACTURER OR A SELLER TO TEN YEARS AFTER THE PRODUCT WAS FIRST SOLD OR OTHERWISE DELIVERED FOR USE OR CONSUMPTION.

Energy Credits for Elderly.

-- ALSO PROVIDES SPECIFIC DEFENSES FOR THE MANUFACTURER SUCH AS:


1. DETERIORATION OF THE PRODUCT RESULTING FROM THE OWNERS FAILURE TO MAINTAIN, SERVICE OR REPAIR THE PRODUCT.
2. MISUSE OF THE PRODUCT.
3. AN UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATION OR CHANGE IN THE PRODUCT.
4. THE OWNERS CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

-- AWAITING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE OHIO SENATE.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH LAWMAKERS
FACE IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS. ALL WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON YOU.

IN CLOSING, THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FACE ENORMOUS
CHALLENGES, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL EFFECTIVELY AND FAIRLY
MEET THESE CHALLENGES BY CONTINUING TO MAKE OHIO A BETTER PLACE TO
WORK AND TO LIVE.

Difficult Issue on Budget.



SCHOOLS MUST BE KEPT OPEN.

-- THERE ARE 616 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN OHIO.

-- OHIO HAS OVER 2 MILLION STUDENTS.

LARGE SCALED PUBLIC EDUCATION HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN
EXPERIMENT.

-- THE EXPERIMENT IS AT A CROSSROADS.

EITHER WE KEEP OHIO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN AND OPERATING AT A
RESPECTABLE QUALITY LEVEL, OR WE WATCH THE GREATEST ASSET A DEMOCRACY
HAS UNDERGO AN EROSION WHICH WILL LEAD TO A CASTE SYSTEM THAT FINDS
QUALITY EDUCATION AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE FAMILIES WITH WEALTH.

A SOUND SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION:

-- REMAINS THE BASIS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

-- TRAINS CITIZENS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CITIZENSHIP.

-- IS BASIC TO PRESERVING AN EDUCATED, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

I. BUDGET

ONE OF THE LEGISLATURE'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE TO
DECIDE THE DETAILS OF THE TWO YEAR STATE BUDGET.

- NEW BUDGET TAKES EFFECT JULY 1, 1979.
- GOVERNOR HAS SUBMITTED \$17.7 BILLION PROPOSAL.
- EXTENSIVE BUDGET HEARINGS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN.

II. TAXES

MANY PEOPLE ASK THE QUESTION, "WILL ADDITIONAL TAXES BE NEEDED?"

- DURING THE COMING BIENNIUM, THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND IS
EXPECTED TO GROW BY APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 BILLION.
- HOPE THIS GROWTH IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE.
- NEED FOR ADDITIONAL REVENUE WILL HAVE TO BE SHOWN TO ME.

III. EDUCATION

EDUCATION WILL BE A TOP PRIORITY OF LAWMAKERS THIS SESSION. THE