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Federal Budget, August 4, 1981

Vern Riffe

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INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Mr. Speaker DATE July 31, 1981
FROM: Don Roberts
SUBJECT: Talk for County Commissioners' and Engineers' meeting.

Event: The Annual Summer Conference of the County Commissioners' and Engineers' Association of Ohio

Date: **Tuesday, August 4**

Place: Stouffer's Inn, Cincinnati-141 West Sixth Street

Time: 10 until 10:15 a.m.

Requested Topic: "A Report by the Speaker of the 114th General Assembly to Date."

Contact Person: A.R. Maslar; 614-221-5627

Note: I have attached some background notes on the interim budget bill, the capital improvements bills, the prison bill, etc.



COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S ASSOCIATION OF OHIO AND COUNTY ENGINEERS'

ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

STOUFFER'S INN, CINCINNATI

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 10 TO 10:15 A.M.

SPEAKER VERN RIFFE

INTRODUCTION

GREETINGS AGAIN TO SO MANY OLD FRIENDS; ALL MEMBERS OF THE OLDEST ASSOCIATION OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION.

I'M SURE THAT YOU KNOW OF THE GREAT RESPECT THAT I HAVE FOR LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

IN THIS BRIEF TIME TODAY I WILL COVER A FEW OF THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ESPECIALLY THE HOUSE, IS DEALING WITH: ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUR WORK AS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY ENGINEERS.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

THE U.S. HOUSE HAS PASSED A REPUBLICAN VERSION OF A FEDERAL

BUDGET. WITH A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE U.S. SENATE IT WILL PROBABLY BECOME LAW.

THAT MEANS ROUGH TIMES AHEAD FOR US, THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE BLOCK GRANT CONCEPT WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL FALL. JUST HOW THE FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATES WILL NOT BE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE MORE POWER TO ALLOCATE THE FEDERAL DOLLARS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAN IN THE PAST.

ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN THERE WILL BE FEWER FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR ALL OF US THAN IN THE PAST. THAT IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR WORK AS WE LOOK TO FUTURE BUDGETING FOR THE STATE AND FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.

ALREADY SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE FIGHTING OVER THE BLOCK GRANT MONIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

WE WILL HAVE TO PLAN AND WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE NEW SYSTEM OF FEDERAL DOLLARS TO THE STATES.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT. THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE IS TOO IMPORTANT. WE WILL NEED TO USE OUR PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING AND BRAINS.

MAJOR LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (1981) OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR YOU

H.B. 101 STANDARDIZES PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGING COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP ZONING REGULATIONS.

H.B. 235-REQUIRES ALL SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN FEBRUARY, APRIL OR AUGUST OR ON THE DAY OF THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.

S.B. 114-AMENDS OR REPEALS OUTDATED OR OBSOLETE SECTIONS OF THE REVISED CODE PERTAINING TO COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS.

THE STATE OF OHIO HAS A NEW DEATH PENALTY LAW TO BECOME EFFECTIVE NEXT OCTOBER 19TH. (S.B.1) WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL PREVENT A NUMBER OF MURDERS AND OTHER TERRIBLE CRIMES.

WE HAVE PASSED A BILL THAT PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. THE NEW LAW INCLUDES AN INCREASE IN THE GASOLINE TAX TO PRODUCE REVENUE FOR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE REPAIR. AT THE SAME TIME A HOUSE TASK FORCE ON BRIDGES HAS BEEN BUSY EXAMINING EVERY ASPECT OF THE BRIDGE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PROBLEM IN THE STATE.

LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND NOW IN THE SENATE AWAITING ACTION

H.B. 373-WOULD PERMIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO LEVY A SALES AND USE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE QUARTER PERCENT; THREE QUARTERS PERCENT OR ONE PERCENT OF PRICE. THE BILL WOULD ENTITLE VENDORS COLLECTING A COUNTY OR A TRANSIT AUTHORITY SALES AND USE TAX TO RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL CREDIT OF ONE EIGHTH PERCENT.

ALSO, THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE ANY REFERENDUM ON THE REPEAL OF AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF A COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE MUST BE VOTED ON AS A SEPARATE QUESTION FROM THE REPEAL OF THE TAX IN EFFECT PRIOR TO THE INCREASE.

THIS BILL, IF PASSED BY THE SENATE, COULD MEAN ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT REVENUE FOR THE COUNTY OPERATIONAL BUDGETS.

H.B. 84-WOULD ESTABLISH A FINANCIAL AND PLANNING COMMISSION AND PROCEDURES FOR THOSE COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS IN WHICH A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY IS DETERMINED TO EXIST.

H.B. 91-WOULD RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACTS BETWEEN PUBLIC EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS.

H.B. 188-WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES BE PAID ANNUAL SALARIES SET BY THE BOARDS AND WOULD SET CEILINGS ON THOSE SALARIES BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE TOWNSHIP BUDGET.

H.B. 230-WOULD PERMIT INTEREST EARNED ON MONEY INCLUDED IN A PUBLIC DEPOSIT BY A COUNTY TREASURER TO BE CREDITED TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND. IT RELIEVES OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTING PUBLIC MONEYS FROM ANY LIABILITY FOR A LOSS RESULTING FROM AN INVESTMENT RISK OR FROM A SUBORDINATE'S ACTION UNLESS THE OFFICIAL KNEW OF THE ACTION AND NEGLECTED HIS/HER DUTIES. THE BILL WOULD CHANGE THE COUNTY'S INVESTING AUTHORITY FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO THE COUNTY TREASURER. THERE ARE OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL.

H.B. 375-REQUIRES A COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO HOLD AT LEAST 10 MEETINGS A YEAR AND REQUIRES REMOVAL OF A MEMBER WHO IS ABSENT FROM FOUR REGULAR MEETINGS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

H.B. 399-WOULD INCREASE THE AMOUNT TO \$300 - THAT A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COULD APPROPRIATE TO EACH LOCAL UNIT OF VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS FOR OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS OF MEMORIAL DAY.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION THIS YEAR

WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE 114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND, FIFTY BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED WITH 86 OF THESE NOW HAVING PASSED BOTH HOUSES. THE HOUSE COMMITTEES HAVE HELD THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF HEARINGS HUNDRED BILLS. THE HOUSE HAS PASSED BILLS THAT WOULD SOLVE OUR PRISON PROBLEMS, ADDRESS SOME OF OUR STATE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, CREATE JOBS, OFFER INCENTIVE TO BUSINESS, ASSIST THE POOR AND DEAL WITH ANY OTHER PEOPLE ISSUES.

CLOSE

I HAVE GIVEN JUST SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK SO FAR THIS YEAR IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO DO.

WE MUST FIND SOLUTIONS TO SCHOOL FUNDING PROBLEMS AND SEVERAL

OTHER SERIOUS SITUATIONS. WE WILL FIND SOLUTIONS.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.