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### Matters Being Considered by the G.A., 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 meeting with Ohio Edison Management Staff Meeting

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Date: Tuesday, August 4

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: General Office, Ohio Edison Company, Akron

Contact Person: Daniel Zeno; 216-384-5100

Note: Jodie has made all arrangements as you know.

REMARKS BY  
OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER VERN RIFFE TO  
THE MANAGEMENT STAFF MEETING OF OHIO EDISON COMPANY  
4 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1981

INTRODUCTION

PRESIDENT ROGERS, DAN ZENO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. IT IS ALWAYS  
A PLEASURE TO SPEND TIME WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE BUSY SERVING THE PUBLIC.

MATTERS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

YOU HAVE ASKED THAT I SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT ISSUES BEING DELIBERATED  
NOW IN THE LEGISLATURE.

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE 114<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY; THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1981.

MORE THAN 1550 BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF COMMITTEE WORK AND HEARINGS HAVE BEEN  
CONDUCTED.

AMONG THE MANY LAWS PASSED IS THE NEW OHIO DEATH PENALTY LAW. WE

(BELIEVE THAT IT)

BELIEVE THAT IT WILL DETER HOMICIDE AND OTHER CRIMES.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO STIMULATE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,  
CHAired BY REPRESENTATIVE COLONNA, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH AN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP.

FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE  
CREATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MR. COLONNA'S COMMITTEE HAS BEEN  
WORKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY, SMALL BUSINESS, THE ACADEMIC  
COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUPS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
AND THE LIKE.

JUST THIS WEEK MR. COLONNA REACHED AGREEMENT WITH OFFICIALS  
OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE STAFF HELP TO HIS COMMITTEE  
AND THE ADVISORY GROUP ON STUDIES ABOUT HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB  
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THIS WORK.

H.B. 223-REQUIRES UTILITY POLE OWNERS TO PERMIT FOR COMPENSATION, THE ATTACHMENT OF OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE LINES UPON THEIR POLES.

H.B. 113-EXPANDS THE INVESTMENT POWERS OF THE STATE'S FIVE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BOARDS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS BILL IS TO ALLOW RETIREMENT BOARD INVESTMENTS TO BE MADE FOR OHIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

H.B. 627-TRANSFERED 2.2 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT FINANCING COMMISSION SO THAT DIRECT LOANS COULD BE MADE TO FIRMS WANTING TO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS AND EXPAND ACTIVITIES IN OHIO.

S.B. 134-INCREASES THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE HAZARDOUS WASTE LAWS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS NEW LAW WILL STOP SEVERAL DANGEROUS PRACTICES USUALLY BY OUT OF STATE WASTE DISPOSERS.

H.B. 102-PROVIDES AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND A GASOLINE TAX INCREASE FOR HIGHWAY REPAIR.

OTHER LEGISLATION STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

H.B. 351-WOULD AUTHORIZE A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION DESIGNATED AS AN "AREA OF CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT" TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH BUSINESS ENTERPRISES FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPANDING AND CREATING NEW JOBS. THE BUSINESSES WOULD RECEIVE TAX INCENTIVES. THIS BILL SIMPLY MEANS THAT WHEN CITY GOVERNMENTS GET TOGETHER TO EXPAND AND CREATE NEW JOBS THE BUSINESSES WILL GET ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF. WE BELIEVE THAT MANY NEW JOBS CAN BE CREATED WITH THIS APPROACH. THE BILL PASSED THE HOUSE AND IS NOW IN THE SENATE.

H.B. 552-THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BILL, PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND NOW IN THE SENATE, WOULD PERMIT MORE THAN 700-MILLION DOLLARS TO BE SPENT FOR STATE PUBLIC PROJECTS--IF THE MONEY IS AVAILABLE.

THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET, SCHOOL FINANCING AND TAXES

THE STATE IS NOW OPERATING UPON AN INTERIM BUDGET BILL UNTIL OCTOBER 31st. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT THE STATE'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE FALL SO AS TO DO A BETTER JOB ON A PERMANENT BUDGET BILL. THE FEDERAL BUDGET, WHICH WILL HAVE FAR FEWER DOLLARS FOR OHIO, WILL NOT BE PASSED UNTIL FALL. UNTIL WE KNOW HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL DISPENSE ITS DOLLARS TO OUR STATE AND HOW MANY THAT WILL BE, WE CANNOT PASS A PERMANENT SPENDING PLAN.

SCHOOL FINANCING IS INDEED A SERIOUS SITUATION. WE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE BEEN BUSY WORKING ON THEM. MANY PEOPLE WANT IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO THESE MOST COMPLEX DIFFICULTIES. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE, EASY SOLUTION.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL FIND REASONABLE WAYS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. AGAIN, WE HAVE THE

UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET TO DEAL WITH.

TAXES, THAT IS A SUBJECT THAT HAS ALL OF US INTERESTED, WILL THERE BE NEW TAXES OR TAX INCREASES IN OHIO LATER THIS YEAR? NO ONE HAS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION RIGHT NOW. IF SEVERAL FACTORS GO TOGETHER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD RAISE SOME TAXES TO PROVIDE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS. THAT IS A POSSIBILITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND THERE MAY BE A NUMBER OF FORCES THAT WILL PREVENT ANY INCREASE IN TAXES.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND THE IDEA OF CHANGING THE WAY ITS' MEMBERS ARE SELECTED HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE SENATE. NORMALLY, I DO NOT DISCUSS OR SPECULATE ABOUT BILLS THAT ARE IN THE SENATE. AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I WILL SAY THAT I DO NOT FAVOR THE SELECTION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS BY POPULAR ELECTION, THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD CAUSE UTILITY RATES TO BE LOWER,



THE WHOLE QUESTION OF UTILITY RATES IS VERY COMPLEX. DOZENS OF FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN THE SETTING OF UTILITY RATES. AS LONG AS WE HAVE CAPABLE, REASONABLE PEOPLE SITTING ON THE COMMISSION IT SEEMS TO ME THAT REASONABLE AND JUST DECISIONS ON UTILITY RATES WILL BE MADE.

CLOSE

I BELIEVE THAT YOU MAY WISH TO ASK QUESTIONS SO I'LL CLOSE MY PRESENTATION HERE.

I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO GIVE YOU A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE HOUSE SO FAR THIS SESSION.

AGAIN, MANY THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO BE HERE. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN YOUR LEADERSHIP WORK WITH THIS GREAT COMPANY AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL SERVE THE PUBLIC WELL, AS WE ATTEMPT TO DO IN THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BACKGROUND NOTES ON INTERIM BUDGET

Amended House Bill 638  
Four months until Oct. 31, 1981

\$1.85 billion

Is a balanced budget; Keip-Sheridan

Continues State agencies at same spending levels - less 3%  
Except - public schools and welfare

\$75 - million in Controlling Board for Emergencies - uneven cash flow or other  
unexpected situations that confront state agencies -

Out - expired - Commission on Children and Mental Health and Mental Retardation  
Joint Advisory Commission.

By fall we will have a better idea on the Federal budget, the state's economy  
and unemployment so as to resume work on Amended Sub. H.B. 167 - the regular  
state budget bill.

Capital Improvements Bill

Am. H.B. 552  
Passed Jouse - now in Senate  
Finance Committee  
\$718 - million-

Senate leadership says they do not want to move the capital bill until a permanent  
budget is passed.

Debt service money for capital bill (\$5.2 million - 1982 and \$10 million - 1983) is in

Am. H.B. 638 - the interime budget bill.

The Prison Bill

Amended House Bill 530  
passed House - In Senate Finance Committee  
after clearing the Senate Judiciary Committee.

It would place a prison reception center in Chillicothe.