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Attorney General of North  
Carolina  
Dedication of Terre Haute Facility  
Bunnlevel, North Carolina  
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Let me thank you for inviting me to come and be with you today for the dedication of this new Terre Haute Manufacturing Plant. Terre Haute is an old friend of ours here in Harnett County. It already has one plant in Coates and we are glad its management has found us to be good neighbors and decided to place another installation here in our midst.

I have been invited to various towns and communities throughout our State to welcome new industries and to dedicate new industrial facilities. It is never surprising to me to find that corporations located across our country find it to their advantage to come to North Carolina. Throughout history, those who have come to North Carolina - visited its lands, enjoyed the hospitality of its people, and returned to their homes - have taken back with them glowing descriptions of what they had found here.

Almost 200 years ago, English explorers, sailing across rough seas in what we would now consider very small and fragile vessels, visited the region we now describe as Eastern North Carolina; that region of our State which most of us are proud to call "home". When they returned to their

native land, they described this part of the New World as "[t]he goodliest land under the cope of heaven". Two persons writing of that trip stated that the soil of Carolina was "sweete, fruitful and wholesome, the trees sweete smelling and the cedars the highest and reddest in the world."

A lot of things have happened since those English gentlemen made their observations in 1584. But nothing has changed to dispute the fact that ours is still "[t]he goodliest land."

So it is perfectly natural for us to be proud of our heritage and our native land. And as a result of this pride, it is natural for us to want others to come and enjoy with us the many good things that North Carolina and our own particular part of this State have to offer.

It is perfectly natural for us, here in Harnett County, to be proud of what Malcom Fowler in his book, "They Passed This Way", described as "A land of rolling hills and fertile bottoms covered with forests of long leaf pine for the most part."

Mr. Fowler, in speaking of Harnett County, stated that "[i]n the beginning was the land ... There were also mighty oaks, tall poplars, massive elms, beeches and walnut trees. White boled sycamores were outlined against the green of the other trees.

"Through this great forest ran scores of streams, emptying their waters into a great river which snaked its tawny way from northwest to southeast across the county. It was a beautiful land."

Harnett County, in my opinion, and I believe in most of yours, is still a beautiful land. Its people are naturally a friendly people and they are naturally an industrious people. They take their work seriously and they understand and expect to give a dollar's work for a dollar's pay. There is no doubt in my mind that the officials of Terre Haute know and appreciate the kind of people we have and that this is one of the primary reasons they have decided to locate yet another plant here among us.

The people of Harnett County are also interesting people. They are known for their diversity and for their ability to enjoy life. Malcolm Fowler took note of this in his book by quoting an early description he found of the people of Harnett County. I was amused when I reread this description and thought that today you might enjoy hearing once again the impression this writer had of the people of Harnett many years ago. The description

today may not be completely accurate--I doubt that it is--but it does show, I think, the kind of diversity which has always been among us here.

Mr. Fowler quotes that early writing as describing the people of Harnett County as follows:

"There are gentlemen and scholars, elders, and deacons among them; roughnecks, drunks and cardplayers, too.

"They have been good soldiers and some of them heroes, others, goldbrickers. They have had good sense, and many times they have acted most foolishly.

"They have had distilleries and barrooms when the law allowed, and bootleggers when it didn't.

"Occasionally, they have shot one another for good cause--or no cause at all. They have never taken a beating lying down, and they get up most unexpectedly.

"They have left undone the things they should have done and done the dangdest things instead. There is good blood in the worst of them

and bad blood in the best."

"They are an agreeable lot but sticklers for their rights. If they think they are being imposed upon--look out! This trait goes back--way back."

You gentlemen here today representing Terre Haute probably have never heard this description. I doubt that if you had, you would have had the nerve to launch this venture here in our midst. However, I know that your experience with our people has taught you far more about us than all the reports and feasibility studies that could ever be purchased. You made your decision to build this new plant on the basis of that experience and certainly there is no finer recommendation of Harnett County and its people than this vote of confidence.

I think everyone here today knows the importance of good industry to small communities like Bunnlevel. For this reason, there is little need for me to dwell on this. And though we appreciate today what the establishment of this plant means, we will appreciate it even more as the days go on and we see its very real effect on our lives and economy.

In 1955, one writer speaking of Harnett County stated "Harnett is woefully deficient in industry but is making progress." That writer was correct in his observations and he was correct in stating that we are making progress. Those of us who live here in Harnett have been pleased to see new industries come to our community since the 1950's just as we are pleased to welcome this new industry today.

I am an optimist and I predict that we are going to continue to grow and that Harnett County is going to see even more good solid industrial development. It is said that the optimist is one who can look at a partially filled pitcher of milk and say "my pitcher is half full" rather than saying "look my pitcher is half empty."

As we look toward the future today, let those of us here in Harnett County say our pitcher is half full. Let's say that we are making progress and that we are growing industrially. And as we welcome and dedicate this new facility, let's take the word back to others who might be interested that Harnett County is a good place to live and a good place for industry to locate. If we really believe in Harnett County and its future, we can take this message to others and our enthusiasm for life here will be contagious.