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Asheboro Jaycees
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PRIDE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

At the outset, I want to point out that I think the Jaycees have done an incredible amount of good for the Tar Heel State. As any politician or public official well knows, no news travels as fast as bad news, and if the Jaycees have been inadvertently connected with some bad news, I want to stress that the positive record of this organization far transcends the negative.

It would take all night to recite the record of civic projects that this organization has been involved in, but let me just mention that I am proud of what has been done for victims of Cystic Fibrosis. I am proud of the recreational programs that the Jaycees have inaugurated. I think that the new Zoo is one of the finest facilities in the state, and I hear many people throughout the state praising it. I am proud of your record, and Jaycees should be proud, just as the slogan for this year says, "Pride Makes the Difference."

I fear that sometimes we hear so much about complex issues and bad news that we are left with a feeling that our problems are so overwhelming that we cannot solve them. This is not the way that I feel about our country through, for I think that the American people have reserves of toughness and pride that will see them through any crisis. Thus, it is a pleasure to speak to you tonight about pride, for I agree with your slogan this year 100 percent--"Pride Makes the Difference."

I remember over the years many examples of why we should be proud, from the dedication of new and imaginative projects in our state to our position as a nation that never finds a challenge too tough to face.

First of all, I want to compliment your organization not only for its 40th anniversary but also for choosing a positive theme for the year. Pessimism, doomsaying, and a sense of failure have had their day. The Jaycees recognize that we

are not a country that wears gloom well. Rather, we are a people who were born in crisis on the frontier, we were steeled in revolution, and we have grown to our present condition as world power through hard work and good government. That we admit that there are problems today is only a reflection of our determination to solve--not avoid--them.

So let me share with you some positive accomplishments that we can all take pride in.

I am a great champion of federalism, and I believe that the founding fathers envisioned a government that spread power from the local level on through counties, states, and finally the federal government. The central government was only to have power over issues specifically delegated to it. As you know, our history has been filled with the struggle for power between the federal government and the states. In my lifetime, due to depression and war, I have seen the central government attain more power than was ever dreamed of by our founding fathers. The time has come for us to think more in terms of cooperative federalism--not in surrendering more power to the central government.

This is not an idle dream. Let me give some examples of how this works. Last January, I spoke at the dedication of

the Metropolitan Water District in my home county of Harnett. That project now supplies rural areas with water, and it originated with a \$12,000 feasibility grant from the Farmers Home Administration. The North Carolina General Assembly in 1971 had passed the Metropolitan Water District Law, allowing formation of a taxing district (by petition of 15 percent of the eligible voters outside incorporated areas and by resolution of the Boards of Commissioners of incorporated areas). Eventually the voters approved by a 4 to 1 margin a \$3.5 million bond issue for the project.

Then the pieces began to fall into place. The Farmers Home Administration increased its commitment by \$1 million. The Coastal Plains Development Commission added \$150,000, and the North Carolina State Department of Human Resources Clean Water Bond grant added \$1.5 million more. Harnett County came up with \$50,000 and with the other bonds the total came to \$7.1 million.

This project shows vividly how a county can work with agencies from the local, county, state, and federal governments to achieve a goal. There is opportunity for such cooperation if we are willing to seek avenues that lead to success. I am proud of the people in Harnett County for completing this project, and they are proud of themselves for their accomplishment.

Just last week, I spoke at the dedication of two buildings in Aurora that again show how cooperative federalism works. Aurora is a small town but it has large pride, and this has allowed it to revitalize. Instead of throwing up their hands and waiting for the forces of urbanization to destroy the small town life there, the residents aggressively sought to preserve their town and make it a model. They have certainly come a long way toward realizing that goal.

The occasion of my speech was the dedication of two buildings--a Community Center and a Civil Center. The Civic Center was actually a remodded house that had been built in the early 1900s. The community thus preserved its heritage with this project. The other building was a new Community Center. Combined they symbolized a sense of history and a solid new structure that symbolized the present.

But the town's pride had also led them to other projects. They had a new Medical and Dental Center, had made constructive use of government programs to construct low income housing, had efficient fire, rescue, and police units, and were hard at work on a museum.

The kind of pride and energy that I witnessed there gave me a warm feeling for what can be achieved by hard work,

careful planning, and civic pride. Aurora had celebrated its 100th anniversary in the spring, and from what I saw there it will be a viable town for centuries to come.

Both of these projects were possible because people on the local level were determined to achieve a goal. Then they sought available funds from the state and federal governments. In both of these cases, Harnett County and Aurora, cooperative federalism worked. Let me assure you that it gave me great pride to share in dedicating both of these projects.

Those who predict that our pride is dead are like the newspaper editor that reported that Mark Twain was dead. You remember that Twain replied that the notices of his death were greatly exaggerated. Those who write off American pride likewise exaggerate. Our pride runs deep like the rivers.

During the past decade our pride has been challenged by forces that are beyond our control. The most glaring example is the energy crisis. I remember people saying that our age of greatness had passed, that now we would be at the mercy of foreign oil producing countries--OPEC.

What was our response? When the gas lines formed a year ago, the President urged us to conserve. There were skeptics who said that we were so accustomed to wasting energy that nothing would help. They were wrong. We have too much pride to be at the mercy of anyone.

Recent reports show that oil imports into the United States this summer have been running one-fourth below last summer's level. This comes not only from conserving in our driving but also in saving home heating oil. Let me reiterate that once the American people realize that there is a crisis they respond. No one person's decision to conserve fuel would make much of a dent in our fuel consumption, but millions of people responding makes a sharp difference.

Industrial leaders responded and found new ways to conserve fuel also. The first steps were easy--wrapping pipes and turning off the lights. But corporations realized that conservation paid off, especially as the price of oil increased. In American industry, there has been a steady drop in the ratio of energy input to productive output.

A key to this conservation that is usually overlooked is the decontrol of oil prices by President Carter. Remember

that after the last recession in 1975, control of oil prices insured relatively cheap gasoline. Demand continued high until the Iranian crisis last year. Then prices took off again.

The President's decision was a tough one, for it would both make energy more expensive and also lead to large windfall profits by oil companies. But I agree with a recent editorial in the Washington Post: "Decontrolling oil prices will stand as President Carter's most important and most courageous contribution, over the past four years, to energy policy and future economic stability."

The President also proposed a Windfall Profits Tax that was also courageous. While some claim that the tax is unnecessary, let me stress that this law passed only after an extended debate. I think that the compromise that was achieved is a fair one. Oil companies received many breaks that encouraged exploration, and the bill also encouraged the conservation of resources in many ways. I do not advocate soaking anyone with taxes, but I do think that corporations and people alike should pay their fair share.

Congress also responded to the energy crisis with the Synthetic Fuels Act that encourages new technology to find

other sources of oil from coal and shale. It also encourages conservation of energy in a number of ways.

My point in these examples is that on all levels, from people cutting back their thermostats and driving less to Congressional action, we have looked the crisis in the eye and resolved that our pride will not allow us to be the victims of an international oil cartel. We will find ways to achieve energy independence, whether it is with gasohol or oil from shale or coal. We have already made great strides in this quest, and we will achieve our goal in the end.

These examples show what pride can do. Your work in the state likewise stresses pride. Our future is bound up more in our national character than in any one program. Pride is the center of our national character. It led us to fight against the British over unjust taxation and achieve our independence. It led us to write a Constitution that survived nearly two centuries. We have fought wars, endured depressions, and built up our country with hard work.

We are not about to let this record collapse. Our destiny drives us on. I compliment you for reiterating this basic American value, "Pride Makes the Difference."