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Greenville Chamber of Commerce
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

It is always good to be back in Greenville, for in many ways this city has shaped my life. It was the first urban experience of my life, unless you count Lillington a city. When I came here to college during World War II, I was prepared to begin my larger education.

During those years here, both before and after the war, I first began to think in terms of the potential that this area had. I found so many good people here, so many hard working people, so many people with good values, and so many people who had never really had a chance to develop all of their talents. So I thought that it would be wonderful if we could develop the immense resources and talent that we have here.

Today, thirty-five years later, I see the fruits of the labor of many people. My friends tell me that I am too modest, and in honesty I had rather brag on others than on myself. But I guess that I can take some credit for the Medical School at East Carolina University. But let me quickly add that numerous people have worked long and hard toward this goal.

I argued with people from the Piedmont that we in the eastern part of the state needed more doctors. Many of the physicians trained at the other medical schools usually practiced out of the state.

That trend has been reversed. In Pitt County the number of doctors has tripled over the past six years. The number of doctors in the towns of the East, such as Wilson, Rocky Mount, Kinston, Jacksonville, and Washington has doubled over the past ten years.

Not only do we have more doctors in the area, but we also have specialists who can minister to problems that in the past were referred to Duke or Chapel Hill. For example, we have facilities here to care for critically ill newborn babies, patients with brain or spinal cord injuries, or people with kidney failure.

But special care is only one part of the achievements of the medical school. One of the primary aims of the East Carolina Medical School is to encourage doctors to remain in the state and in this area. There was and is a shortage of doctors who go into primary care, that is, family doctors.

I am delighted that of the first 28 students who will graduate next spring after completing all four years here, 24, or 86 percent, are applying for residency in primary care. The four residents who finished the full three years in family practice are also settling in the state. Two are going to Salisbury and two will remain here. I think that the significance of these figures are not lost on you. We are managing to train excellent doctors, and we are keeping them close to us to provide for the cares of our people.

In addition to the medical school providing the area with more doctors, the Eastern Carolina Vocational Center has broken ground for a new facility that will be a national model. It will contain a dormitory and a rehabilitation complex that will help the physically and mentally handicapped achieve a normal life. They will learn skills that will enable them to live productive and satisfying lives.

This facility has been supported by federal appropriations. Three years ago there was a \$2.1 million appropriation, and just this year another \$1.8 was earmarked for the project. Congressman Walter Jones and I have worked together to get these funds. Because of a technicality in House rules, Congressman Jones

could not get the funds put into the House budget, so I offered a floor amendment from the Senate side. We have learned to work with the rules of both Houses in making sure that our people are cared for. You are fortunate to have such a hard working Congressman to represent you, a man who carries great weight in the House, and one who has tremendous influence there.

I am sure that all of you are aware of the role that he plays for this section of the country as chairman of the Tobacco Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee. We both realize that defending farmers, and especially defending the tobacco support program, will be increasingly difficult. This is not only because of the various opponents that tobacco has, but also because both houses of Congress have become increasingly urban oriented. This has meant that both of us have to work to educate our urban colleagues to the needs of rural people, and at the same time, we are educated to the problems of New York City and Los Angeles. Unless we work closely with urban legislators, they will not work with us. It is a two way street, and we have learned to walk successfully on it.

Both Congressman Jones and I share a concern that the federal government has become too big and overbearing in many

areas. I can give you a few examples close to home. A few minutes ago I was bragging about our medical care. Yet, we still have a shortage of hospital beds in this part of the state. On the other hand, the Piedmont has plenty of beds. There is a federal regulation that a state should have 4 hospital beds per 1,000 people, and statewide North Carolina meets the standard. But we in the eastern part of the state find it increasingly difficult to obtain more hospital space because the rule does not take into consideration a balance within a state but only a statewide quota. The rule was obviously written by a bureaucrat who did not recognize that states have different sections with different needs. That is the kind of rule that I work to get rid of.

There are probably some used car dealers here who have been upset by the proposed Federal Trade Commission rule that would require a sticker to be placed on the windshield noting that a car has been inspected and that all the faults are advertised. This would imply a warranty on the car. A few weeks ago, I joined with Senator McClure in an effort to educate the Federal Trade Commission to the problems of used car dealers. Senator McClure offered an amendment to delete this ruling. Several floor statements reviewed the problems with this ruling and the implication was that unless the ruling

is modified before it is finalized, there will be a legislative veto of it. Senator McClure withdrew the amendment, but the handwriting was put boldly on the wall for the FTC to read.

The legislative veto, which I cosponsored, will give Congress the power to review FTC rules and put a brake on needless regulations that annoy and in some cases hinder businesses. I have always argued that the states should handle most regulations. The Federal government has gone overboard in this area, and I will continue to work to get rid of some of these ridiculous rules that impede business.

I could not come to Pitt County without mentioning tobacco, for the economy of both Greenville and the surrounding countryside depends on it. Successful farmers mean successful businessmen. We all prosper together. In that connection, I have devoted a great deal of effort to protect the tobacco program. Through such educational projects as the Congressional Tour, which just finished its second year, decision makers in the Senate are learning first hand the problems of Tar Heel farmers.

Much of the work to protect tobacco is done behind the scenes. Just two weeks ago I joined with Senators Dee Huddleston

and Herman Talmadge to urge Senator Russell Long to drop a proposed amendment, which had already passed in the House, that would allow cigar wrapper tobacco to enter the country duty free. This would have been a terrible precedent. We were successful, however, and the amendment was never brought up. I could mention other such cases, but let me just reiterate that both Congressman Jones and I understand the problems of tobacco farmers, and we will continue to work to protect them.

Of course, we have worked with other commodity producers also. Recently the United States Department of Agriculture set up a program to help corn farmers who were unable to market corn affected by Aflatoxin. I worked with North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham and the federal people in getting this loan program set up.

Having grown up on a farm, I understand the problems of farmers. I appreciate the hard work, the community spirit, and the basic American values that are part of farm life. At the same time, I realize that many Americans are moving to cities where there are quite different problems with complex solutions.

My experience in different levels of government--county, state, and national--has taught me an appreciation for having most government close to home. Many national politicians are so caught up in writing national laws that they forget that we even have state legislatures or county government.

In this connection, I have been working away at a new approach to big government. It is not a simple answer that will cut our government back to what it was in 1890. I propose a new Federalism, a new concept of government that asks not what the Federal government can do for you, but what you can do to make State and local government more effective. It will only be when we return government closer to the people that we will see the Federal bureaucracy shrink, that we will see an end to the piles of regulations, the miles of red tape, and the thousands of lazy bureaucrats.

Some of the power of the central government is necessary; the Constitution provides for it. But I am convinced that the scales should now tip away from the Federal programs and that state and local government should handle more issues. If the trend is to be reversed, it will come about because we come up with a sound philosophical barrage--not with random rocks shot from single issue sling shots.

I have studied this problem of increasing Federal power, and from time to time I have won victories over the bureaucracy and government waste. The experience that I have accumulated in Washington will aid me in furthering this cause. I have won allies and made converts, and I am anxious to continue my pursuit of good and efficient government.

Finally, I think that what we have done right here in Pitt County is an example of how all levels of government can work together. Our University is the product of intense work to convince the state legislature that we ready for a great school. The Medical School grew out of this larger vision.

The East Carolina Vocational Center profits from our ability to attract federal money for an excellent project. Our farmers benefit from the commodity programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To function in the present world, we need to be mindful of how government works at all levels. I have spent my life moving through these different levels of government, and I understand how they all fit together. I will continue to work to find ways to bring harmony among all these different levels of government.