

moba media

PO Box 4653
Portland OR
97208
1217 SW 19th
Portland OR
97205
(503) 223-1677

RUG FACTORY

Channel 6 KOIN-TV 4/6/84 5:13

Judy Rooks

And now we are going to travel far from Portland.

As leader of the first Oregon trade mission to the middle east, Governor Atiyeh has had little time to himself.

Now he is in Israel and each day is tightly scheduled with luncheons, dinners and business appointments. And meetings with government officials.

Even the governors site seeing is trade-related as Mike Donahue reports from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Mike Donahue

Even the former carpet salesman had to admit that he never saw a rug factory like this one in the United States.

According to the Governor, this is they way that American factories use to make carpets, but a new process called tufting now sews a rug in 15 minutes.

This method called Wilton requires 2 hours.

The quality is about the same but the Saudi's charge a little more and why not, the government is this plants main customer.

Ordering wall-to-wall carpets and prayer rugs for the 1,000 Islamic Mosques.

It is doubtful that OSHA would approve of workers putting their hands in these machines. Here as elsewhere, almost all the labor is imported. Pakistani's, Yemen's and Phillipino's.

There are no labor unions in Saudi Arabia's factories either, although the teachings of the Koran forbid exploiting employees.

(more)

2-2-2-2

RUG FACTORY, Channel 6, KOIN-TV, 4/6/84

Mike Donahue
(cont.)

Although that, like the golden rule, is subject to the Saudi managers interpretation.

The Saudi's are especially proud of their port in Jeddah. Ironically though, they took the governor first to the grain receiving terminal.

Now that the Saudi's have reached self-sufficiency in grain production, this will be a more common sight.

Ships pulling away from port.

It is a one-way ocean from Oregon however, the Arab worlds largest customer for U.S. products exports nothing directly to Oregon.

In two months the Saudi's will offer a vaccuum off-loader. For the first time they will be able to receive bulk shipments of grain instead of the more expensive bags.

But, unless Oregon growers can convince the Saudi government that it needs soft white wheat for blending flours, this new technology will go unused.

In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, this is Mike Donahue, reporting for Newsroom 6.

xxx