

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TV PROGRAM  
Sunday Night, November 3 1974  
Victor Atiyeh's Remarks - CMJ

I do not need speech writers, advisors, friends - nor even my lovely wife Dolores - to assist me in describing what is on my mind or in my heart tonight, this night before election eve.

Nineteen seventy four has been a discouraging year for pocketbook watchers in all walks of life. It has been an unsettling year for Oregonians - and all Americans - unsettling because the soundness of our democratic process has been severely tested - and because the basic character of many of our public officials has been continuously questioned, and sometimes found wanting.

It has been a very long year for politicians and for politician watchers alike.

This year, 1974, could report many things - that our young people alternate between social rebellion and social alienation. They see no honor in war - no justice in poverty and little merit in accepting the social values adopted by their elders who grew up in a totally different world in a time whose relevancy to them has passed.

Even more disturbing, I sense that too many persons now beyond their youth, as well as those still in it, feel that most persons who run for public office are intellectually dishonest -- at best -- and that those apparently few honest persons elected to public positions seem largely helpless to act.

Each of these citizens who at one time shared a measure of confidence in our governmental processes, now seem to have lost some measure of that confidence. They feel tuned out, trimmed down or turned off - in their desire even to be involved at all.

I am a life-long Oregonian. My politics are Oregonian. My interests are Oregonian's interests. My concerns are the concerns of all Oregonians interests. That's why, for the past 16 years, I have been willing to serve in our state legislature. That's why I have been willing to make well over 30,000 public decisions during that time, affecting virtually every phase of every life of every

Oregonian. That's why I have carefully followed a pattern - to think about all Oregonians before I speak - to listen to all Oregonian's concerns before I propose - to plan with all Oregonians's in mind before I act. If the charge is that this makes me conservative, then so be it. I am confident, though, that this is why you and I, as Oregonians, have so much in common.

And this is why I have developed a 6 part Action Plan for Oregon which will form the basis of my first legislative proposals as Governor.

We cannot order the world to stop changing. We are not today what we were yesterday. We are not now - and never will be again - the same people nor the same state.

That's why my Action Plan for Oregon outlines 6 areas of vital concern to every Oregonian:

- to improve our state's economy and job climate;
- to better meet our human needs;
- to control taxes;
- to insure quality public education and equal educational opportunity for our children;
- to protect our environment and conserve energy sources; and
- to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of state government.

I believe that Oregon's Governor should be committed to fighting our peoples' battles in the legislature - in the press - in every available public forum - in Washington D.C. - withwhomever those battles must be fought - No matter how unpopular the stance he must take. I am committed to fighting these battles.

But, we Oregonians need to come to grips not just with the protection of life, property and our environment - not just with the problems of job shortages and family insecurity - not just with the shame of inadequate and unequal educational opportunity for our children - not just with the seeming conflict between orderly development of our lands and resources - and the long-range protection of Oregon's environmental livability - not just with the rising costs of living and of governing, which eat up our ever-shrinking personal incomes.

We Oregonians must also come to grips with the need to restore confidence in our ability to provide creditable government and credible public officials, at all levels.

If our local and state governments and public office holders cannot be a good moral example in Oregon, we certainly cannot expect our federal government to be a moral force for good anywhere in the world.

I believe that the two most dangerous things a Governor can do are (first) to lead with knowledge but without conviction and (second) to lead with conviction but without knowledge.

I believe I know Oregon - and Oregonians' concerns. I have unswerving convictions about our people - and our peoples' ability to solve their problems, given leadership which has knowledge, conviction, compassion and integrity.

I ask to be your Governor. No one of us is as smart as all of us, but with your support, I am confident I can serve Oregon and Oregonians best for the next four years because we really do have the most in common. Thank you.

end