

MAYOR JANE M. TOLMACH

NOTES FOR COMMENTS DURING  
MEETING WITH STATE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE  
COLONIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT  
JANUARY 23, 1974, 7:00 P.M.

(Since the meeting will be rather informal, you may wish to "ad-lib" in your comments; however, the following notes may provide a general outline.)

AGENDA ITEM II - WELCOMING REMARKS

MR. PETERSEN, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OXNARD. WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU AND DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ALL OF US HERE IN THE COMMUNITY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME OUR GUESTS FROM THE COLLEGE DISTRICT: BOARD MEMBERS MS. EVERETT, DR. SIMPSON, AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, DR. SHEFFIELD. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE FROM MR. PETERSEN ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM HERE IN OUR AREA.

AGENDA ITEM IV - DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEED FOR/CURRENT STATUS OF OXNARD COLLEGE

THANK YOU. FOR THE BENEFIT OF MR. PETERSEN, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE CITY'S CONCERN ABOUT THIS ISSUE. TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS CONCERN, YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE AWARE OF THE EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND ON THIS ISSUE. I AM SURE YOU ARE GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH MUCH OF THIS BACKGROUND; THE TASK FORCE HAS PREPARED AN INFORMATIONAL PACKET FOR YOU WHICH PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON THIS BACKGROUND AND HELPS TO EXPLAIN THE COMMUNITY'S EXTREME FRUSTRATION IN FAILING TO MOVE THE OXNARD COLLEGE PROJECT FORWARD.

I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE MORE RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER WHICH HAVE BROUGHT US TO THE POINT OF TONIGHT'S MEETING. AS YOU KNOW, THE DISTRICT PURCHASED A 118 ACRE SITE IN SOUTHEAST OXNARD IN 1968. AFTER THE FAILURE OF TWO BOND ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PORTION OF OXNARD COLLEGE AND OTHER PROJECTS, THE DISTRICT DECIDED TO USE ANOTHER APPROACH IN FINANCING CAPITAL PROJECTS. THIS APPROACH, USING THE STIERN BILL, HAS SINCE BEEN UTILIZED SUCCESSFULLY TO INITIATE OTHER NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, BUT HAS NOT BEEN USED TO GET OXNARD COLLEGE UNDERWAY. INSTEAD, THE DISTRICT DOWNGRADED THE OXNARD COLLEGE PROJECT FROM PRIORITY NUMBER 1 IN 1970 TO PRIORITY NUMBER 3 IN 1972. AS THE PREPARATION OF THE 1973 TEN YEAR FACILITIES PLAN BEGAN, THE OXNARD CITY COUNCIL PRESENTED A FORMAL RESOLUTION TO THE DISTRICT BOARD REQUESTING A REAFFIRMATION OF ITS COMMITMENT TO INITIATE THE OXNARD COLLEGE PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE BOARD RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST, AND THE STRONG DEMONSTRATION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT WHICH ACCOMPANIED IT, BY UNDERTAKING A MASTER PLAN STUDY TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN OXNARD COLLEGE IS NEEDED AND WHETHER IT IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE. THE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY WERE VERY FEARFUL THAT THE MASTER PLAN STUDY WOULD FURTHER DELAY THE OXNARD COLLEGE PROJECT AND, THEREFORE, REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR OFFICE.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE MASTER PLAN STUDY WAS NEEDED TO DETERMINE THAT THE OXNARD AREA DESPERATELY NEEDS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE. OXNARD IS THE LARGEST COMMUNITY IN VENTURA COUNTY, IT HAS A HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY GROUP RESIDENTS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO COMMUTE TO

COLLEGE, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER FACTORS WHICH MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT A FULL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM BE DEVELOPED HERE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. IN LIGHT OF THIS OBVIOUS NEED, WE ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE COLLEGE DISTRICT IS RELUCTANT TO RESPOND BY INITIATING THE OXNARD COLLEGE--ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT OXNARD RESIDENTS ARE PAYING MORE TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT THAN IS ANY OTHER COMMUNITY.

WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TELL US HERE TONIGHT JUST WHAT SUPPORT THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE MIGHT PROVIDE IN MEETING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEEDS OF OUR AREA.

--END--