

RESPONSE TO 90TH BIRTHDAY RECEPTION
APRIL 19, 2004
MIRAGE HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thank you! Again the pre-posthumous eulogies are appreciated, etc. I'm honored with your presence – so many of you here have contributed to my political, regulatory or social well being and this very senior citizen is glad to see you.

1073

YOU KNOW EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE A LONG TIME BUT NO ONE WANTS TO GROW OLD. SO I'M DOING MY BEST TO BRIDGE THAT AWKWARD GAP. I HAVE ENTHUSIASTIC FRIENDS WHO KEEP GREETING ME AT NAB CONVENTIONS WITH "YOU LOOK GREAT!" IN FACT, ONE ATTRACTIVE LADY, A PROMINENT COMMUNICATIONS ATTORNEY, SAID "YOU NOT ONLY LOOK GREAT, BUT YOU HAVE THE VITAL SPIRIT OF A 25 YEAR OLD." I REPLIED, "THANKS, I ONLY WISH I HAD THE OTHER ATTRIBUTES OF A 25 YEAR OLD."

AFTER INTENSIVE CONTEMPLATION, I HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT ONE CAN'T GET OUT OF LIFE ALIVE SO WHY NOT ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST? YOU CAN DIE AS A SPECTATOR IN THE BLEACHERS OR YOU CAN DIE ACTIVELY ON THE FIELD. SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET OUT ON THE FIELD OF LIFE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME. ENJOY THE GREAT ADVENTURE. MAKE IT THE MOST POSITIVELY CHARGED EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE. I WANT TO FLASH OUT, NOT RUST OUT. BUT NOT FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT, HERE IN FRONT OF YOU.

I HEARD AN ENTERTAINING STORY ON AGING THAT I WANT TO SHARE WITH

YOU. A SENIOR CITIZEN WAS TAKING A WALK IN THE PARK AND WAS AMAZED WHEN HE CAME UPON A TALKING FROG. THE FROG LOOKED UP AND SAID "SIR, I AM UNDER AN EVIL SPELL. IF YOU WILL ONLY KISS ME, I WILL TURN INTO A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN. I WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU – PLEASE MY GRATITUDE WOULD KNOW NO BOUNDS – WE WOULD HAVE A GREAT TIME."

THE SENIOR CITIZEN PUT THE FROG IN HIS POCKET AND KEPT WALKING. THE TALKING FROG AGAIN PLEADED WITH HIM --"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? REMEMBER, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL AND I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU – AS A PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN WE COULD HAVE A LOT OF FUN."

THE OLD-TIMER SAID "I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT AT MY AGE, I COULD HAVE A LOT MORE FUN JUST HAVING A TALKING FROG." AS FOR ME, MY FRIENDS BELIEVE I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE KISSED THE FROG.

NOW FOR A WORD ABOUT MY HECTIC CAREER WITH ITS TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS, DISAPPOINTMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

NATURALLY, I SALUTE MICHIGAN STATE FOR A MOST MEMORABLE CAREER CLIMAX. I CONSIDER IT THE ULTIMATE HONOR THAT MY LATE WIFE'S NAME AND MY NAME WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR BELOVED ALMA MATER IN PERPETUITY THROUGH THE JAMES H. AND MARY B. QUELLO CENTER FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT AND LAW. FOR ME IT IS THE PARAMOUNT CAPSTONE OF A LONG, VARIED CAREER THAT ORIGINATED WITH

THE MICHIGAN STATE NEWSPAPER AND AT WKAR, THE 5000 WATT COLLEGE RADIO STATION.

AS FOR ME, PERSONALLY, I'M CONFRONTING THE PROSPECT THAT I HAVE ALREADY LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE. HOWEVER, I HAVE NO REGRETS AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER GENERIC VIGOR THAT REMAINS.

IN A RATHER UNIQUE WAY, I HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL – VERY SUCCESSFUL AT ELUDING WEALTH WHENEVER IT CAME CLOSE TO ME. (QUOTE TOM MURPHY'S 23-1/2 MILLION – NOW \$70 TO 80 MILLION AND SON DICK'S QUOTE)

BUT MONETARY WEALTH OR NO WEALTH, I HAVE BEEN TRULY BLESSED. I REALLY HAD A PRETTY GOOD RUN IN LIFE WITH THREE CAREERS – ARMY, BROADCASTING AND THE FCC. THE FCC CAREER WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT, EXCITING AND GRATIFYING.

AND NOW MY FINAL MESSAGE AS YOU FACE THE TRIBULATIONS, DISAPPOINTMENTS AND TRIUMPHS OF LIFE – I LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT IN THE FINAL STAGES OF LIFE WHAT REALLY COUNTS ARE SOME SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, GOOD HEALTH, REASONABLE ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY AND THE AFFECTION AND RESPECT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I AM BLESSED AND FULFILLED BY YOUR PRESENCE TODAY AND YOUR FRIENDSHIP. THAT'S ALL THE WEALTH I EVER ASPIRED TO.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR ADDING SUCH A PLEASANT EVENT TO MY MOST
CHERISHED LIFETIME MEMORIES.

LOVE YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU.