

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**JUNE 15, 2007**

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO SIOUX FALLS, HOME OF THE SIOUX FALLS ARGUS LEADER. NOW THERE IS JUST ONE THING I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE ARGUS LEADER: NO MATTER WHAT YOU READ THERE, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE THINKING OF THE CITY AS A WHOLE. YOU MUST REMEMBER WHAT THE MISSION OF THE ARGUS LEADER REALLY IS: TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED AND TO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE.

YOU PROBABLY WEREN'T AWARE OF THIS BECAUSE I HAVE NOT SEEN IT PRINTED IN THE ARGUS LEADER, BUT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS BEEN FEELING QUITE DEPRESSED LATELY BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN PICKING UP ON THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING THINGS LIKE HE IS NOT THE SHARPEST KNIFE IN THE DRAWER AND OTHER NEGATIVE THINGS LIKE THAT. SO HE CALLS HIS GOOD FRIEND QUEEN ELIZABETH WHO SAYS, "NOW GEORGE, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH SMART PEOPLE. LET ME SHOW YOU."

SHE CONFERENCE CALLS TONY BLAIR IN AND ASKS, "TONY, YOUR PARENTS HAD A BABY. IT ISN'T YOUR SISTER AND IT ISN'T YOUR BROTHER. WHO IS IT?"

TONY BLAIR REPLIES, "IT'S ME! AND HANGS UP."

PRESIDENT BUSH THEN CALLS DICK CHENEY AND SAYS, "DICK, YOUR PARENTS HAD A BABY. IT ISN'T YOUR SISTER AND IT ISN'T YOUR BROTHER. WHO IS IT?"

AND CHENEY SAYS, "WOW, THAT'S A TOUGH ONE. LET ME GET BACK TO YOU."

SO CHENEY CALLS COLIN POWELL AND SAYS, "COLIN, YOUR PARENTS HAD A BABY. IT ISN'T YOUR SISTER AND IT ISN'T YOUR BROTHER. WHO IS IT?"

AND COLIN POWELL SAYS, "IT'S ME!"

SO CHENEY CALLS BUSH BACK AND SAYS, "IT'S COLIN POWELL."

AND BUSH SAYS, "NO, YOU IDIOT! IT'S TONY BLAIR!"

(the underlined portion is what I left out)

YOU KNOW WHEN I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU PEOPLE MIGHT WANT TO HEAR TODAY, I IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO TALK ABOUT OUR FORWARD SIOUX FALLS FUND DRIVE THAT CONCLUDED A FEW MONTHS BACK AFTER RAISING \$10.4 MILLION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SIOUX FALLS. I KNEW THERE WASN'T TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN ALL OF LINCOLN AND MINNEHAHA COUNTY THAT HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE. I KNEW THERE WASN'T TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE 45,000 SQ. FOOT TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CENTER THAT FORWARD SIOUX FALLS BUILT AND IS NOW FULL OF FLEDGLING TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES THAT ARE GROWING AS WE HAD HOPED. AND CERTAINLY THERE WOULD NOT BE TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EVEN THOUGH IT WILL BE ONLY A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS AND SIOUX FALLS WILL HAVE THE LARGEST POPULATION OF POST SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE STATE IF IT DOESN'T ALREADY.

WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WAS THE QUESTION THAT I GET ASKED THE MOST THESE DAYS. NO, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PROJECT GORILLA EVEN THOUGH I THINK IT IS AMAZING THAT A CITIZEN'S GROUP HAS FORMED IN THE ELK POINT AREA TO OPPOSE THE PROJECT WHEN THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.

ACTUALLY THE QUESTION I GET ASKED THE MOST PERTAINS TO THE RECENT \$400,000,000 GIFT THAT MR. SANFORD COMMITTED TO SANFORD HEALTH. AND THAT IS, "HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS GIFT TO THE FUTURE OF SIOUX FALLS?"

LET ME TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT I BELIEVE THIS DEVELOPMENT IS: IN 1970 WE ATTRACTED THE EROS DATA CENTER – NOW THIS SINGLE EVENT DIDN'T CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT IT CERTAINLY HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THIS COMMUNITY – PEOPLE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE COULD DO MORE HERE THAN RAISE CORN, SOYBEANS, CATTLE, AND HOGS. AND WHAT HAPPENED? OUR ECONOMY BEGAN TO DIVERSIFY AND GROW.

AND THEN IN 1980, GOVERNOR JANKLOW MADE A DEAL WITH CITIBANK AND THE RESULT IS AN INSTITUTION THAT EMPLOYS 3200 PEOPLE AND NOT ONE OF THEIR JOBS IS TO GROW CORN. AND WHAT FOLLOWED? OTHER CREDIT CARD COMPANIES AND CALL CENTER OPERATIONS. NOW WE HAVE OVER 10,000 PEOPLE WORKING IN CREDIT CARD AND CALL CENTER JOBS. DO YOU THINK IN 1981, PEOPLE WERE SMART ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT THAT ONE DEAL WITH CITIBANK WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE? SIOUX FALLS IS NOW KNOWN ACROSS THE NATION AS A FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTER – DO YOU THINK BILL JANKLOW REALIZED AT THAT TIME WHAT THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF THAT ONE DEAL WOULD BE? NOW,

OF COURSE, HE WOULD TELL YOU THAT HE DID, BUT I REALLY DOUBT IT.

NOW I BELIEVE WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS AND I BELIEVE THIS GIFT THAT MR. SANFORD HAS GIVEN IS GOING TO BE THE SPARK THAT IGNITES OUR MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND INSPIRES THEM TO NEW LEVELS AND ALLOWS THEM TO THINK ABOUT DELIVERING MEDICAL SERVICES IN NEW AND BETTER WAYS, WAYS THAT HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN INVENTED YET. THINK ABOUT PEOPLE COMING TO SIOUX FALLS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO GET THEIR CHILDREN TREATED HERE BECAUSE SANFORD HEALTH IS KNOWN WORLD-WIDE FOR THE PEDIATRIC RESEARCH IT DOES. THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT WILL COME HERE TO DO RESEARCH. THINK ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF JOBS THAT WILL BE CREATED JUST TO HANDLE ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE. EVENTUALLY WON'T WE NEED A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO MOVE PEOPLE AROUND OUR MEDICAL FACILITIES AND PERHAPS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN AVERA AND SANFORD? WILL THE NEED FOR DOCTORS, NURSES, AND TECHNICIANS OF ALL TYPES DOUBLE, TRIPLE, OR MULTIPLY BY 10 TIMES IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS? WON'T THAT BE A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE? THINK ABOUT IT, THAT ORIGINAL DEAL THT BILL JANKLOW MADE WITH CITIBANK WAS FOR 250 JOBS AND NOW WE HAVE 10,000. THIS GIFT WON'T JUST AFFECT SANFOR HEALTH SYSTEM, IT WILL AFFECT ALL OF THE HOSPITALS, CLINICS, PHARMACIES AND OTHER HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS. OUR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM HAD ALREADY BECOME WELL KNOWN IN THIS REGION AND NOW IT WILL ESTABLISH ITSELF NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

AM I EXCITED? YOU BETTER BELIEVE I AM EXCITED. I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE FACT THAT I GOT TO WITNESS SOMETHING THAT WILL

CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY FOR THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS STATE. I AM EXCITED BECAUSE I CAN NOW LOOK BACK AT WHAT THIS COMMUNITY WAS 20 YEARS AGO AND REALIZE HOW MUCH PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE. I AM EXCITED BECAUSE I KNOW HOW MUCH DIFFERENT THIS COMMUNITY IS GOING TO LOOK 20 YEARS FROM NOW. SO IF YOU JUST CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO CATCH THE EXCITEMENT, THEN AT LEAST STAY OUT OF THE WAY, BECAUSE THERE IS A BUNCH OF US HERE THAT HAVE A CITY TO BUILD.