OCIC DEDICATION TALKING POINTS GOVERNOR NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT OREGON CITY, 1-4-91

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 THANKS TO CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JUDY HAMMERSTADT, DARLENE HOOLEY AND CHAIR ED LINDQUIST; FORMER CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DALE HARLAN; AND TO OUT-GOING OREGON CITY MAYOR DAVE SPEER.

ALSO THANKS TO CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF BILL BROOKS, A GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER AND PUBLIC SERVANT.

FINALLY, THANKS TO FRED PEARCE AND OUR CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION UNIT, ESPECIALLY BILL HIRSH AND LISA STRADER, FOR ANOTHER EXCELLENT JOB -- AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND ON-BUDGET YET AGAIN.

- WE'VE COME A LONG WAYS IN FOUR SHORT YEARS TO RESTORE OUR STATE'S POWER TO PUNISH -- FROM THE DAYS WHEN ARTICLES LIKE THIS IN 1988 (HOLD UP ARTICLE) FROM THE HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD ABOUT OREGON'S CRIME PROBLEM WERE BEING PRINTED IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
- THIS INTAKE CENTER IS A NEW TOOL FOR OREGON'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. IT WILL MAKE OUR SYSTEM WORK BETTER BY SCREENING AND CLASSIFYING CRIMINALS FIRST, THEN SENDING THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE CORRECTIONS FACILITY.

THE IDEA FOR THIS FACILITY CAME OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S STRATEGIC CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS...

• I LOOK ON THIS OCCASION TODAY WITH MIXED FEELINGS. I NEVER WANTED TO BE KNOWN AS THE OREGON GOVERNOR WHO BUILT THE MOST PRISONS -- I WOULD MUCH RATHER BE REMEMBERED FOR WHAT WE HAVE BEGUN TO HELP OREGON'S CHILDREN.

THIS FACILITY -- THESE PRISONS -- ARE SOCIETY'S LAST, AND MOST EXPENSIVE, STOP ALONG THE WAY FOR CHILDREN WHO GREW UP IN POVERTY AND NEGLECT. CHILDREN WHO COULD NOT BE INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUPPORTING EXCEPT THROUGH CRIME.

 I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN OREGON NEVER HAS TO BUILD ANOTHER PRISON CELL...

WHEN HEAD START IS MADE AVAILABLE TO EVERY OREGON CHILD...

WHEN DRUG TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND TO EVERY PREGNANT WOMAN, AND TO EVERY OREGON CHILD...

WHEN MORE OF US REACH OUT AS INDIVIDUALS TO A CHILD AND SAY, "THIS CHILD IS MINE"...

COMMUNITIES ACROSS THIS STATE ARE DOING IT... THE GREAT START GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HELP TO CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO AGE SIX IS WORKING:

IN LANE COUNTY WITH A RELIEF NURSERY, COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR TEEN PARENTS AND CHILD CARE;

IN COLUMBIA COUNTY WITH NEW HEALTH SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES; IN GRANT COUNTY WITH TWO NEW CHILD CARE CENTERS;

AND IN YAMHILL COUNTY WHERE THE NURTURING COMMUNITY PROGRAM IS TRAINING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH FAMILIES TO PROVIDE PARENT EDUCATION -- PARTICULARLY TARGETING TEEN PARENTS.

- WE SHOULD BUILD BRAIN CELLS, NOT PRISON CELLS.
- THANK YOU.