

TSONGAS

VORKE-SHAUSHEEN  
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THE SUBJECT OF MY SPEECH IS ENERGY. WHEN I LOOK BACK ON THE MANY GRADUATIONS I SAT THROUGH, I REMEMBER HAVING THOUGHTS ABOUT ENERGY. I THOUGHT . . . IT'S TOO BAD THIS GUY HAS THE ENERGY TO GIVE THIS SPEECH.

BUT AS I LOOK BACK, I CAN SAY THAT GRADUATIONS OUGHT TO BE VIEWED WITH SATISFACTION. YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN REACHING A GOAL, DESPITE MANY ADVERSE CONDITIONS. A GRADUATION IS THE TIME TO GIVE YOURSELF A PAT ON THE BACK.

YOU'RE LEAVING SCHOOL, LOOKING FOR A JOB AT A TIME WHEN AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD IS CHANGING. THIS CHANGE PARALLELS PERHAPS AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT ALTERING OF OUR COUNTRY'S LIFE STYLE. OUR SHORTAGE OF ENERGY RESOURCES IS ABOUT TO CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE AND WORK. THAT JOB YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MAY NOT BE THERE BECAUSE OF THE EFFECTS OF ENERGY SHORTAGES ON OUR ECONOMY. IN NEW ENGLAND, BY THE YEAR 1990, WE'LL USE MORE THAN TWICE AS MUCH ENERGY AS WE USE TODAY, UNLESS A SUITABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS TAKEN. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT THESE KINDS OF ENERGY DEMANDS WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY. THEREFORE, WE HAVE TO ASK, WHAT ARE WE -- WHAT ARE YOU -- GOING TO GIVE UP SO THAT WE CAN OPERATE SCHOOLS LIKE THIS ONE, PROVIDE JOBS, AND REVITALIZE OUR ECONOMY?

TO BE BLUNT ABOUT IT . . . WE CAN GIVE UP A LOT OF THINGS AND WE WILL. AND I BELIEVE THAT RATHER THAN MAKING OUR LIVES MORE DIFFICULT, THESE "SACRIFICES" CAN MAKE OUR LIVES MORE ENJOYABLE. BUT OUR PRIORITIES WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES . . . I'D LIKE A SHOW OF HANDS ON A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS . . . HOW MANY OF YOUR FAMILIES HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAR?- HOW MANY OF YOUR PARENTS DRIVE TO WORK ALONE RATHER THAN TAKING MASS TRANSIT OR CAR-POOLING? - HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE (AS THEY SAY) 'LEFT RUBBER' WITH A QUICK ACCELERATION IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS? WE DON'T USE OUR CARS VERY EFFICIENTLY AND, IN FACT, 60% OF ALL THE ENERGY WE USE IS RELATED TO AUTOMOBILES AND GASOLINE. SINCE 40% OF ALL THE PETROLEUM THIS COUNTRY USED LAST YEAR HAD TO BE IMPORTED AND SINCE THE PRICE OF IMPORTED PETROLEUM HAS GONE FROM \$2.50 A BARREL IN 1972 TO ABOUT \$14 A BARREL TODAY, YOU CAN SEE WHY OUR COUNTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM HAS SPAWNED INFLATION AND ENCOURAGED RECESSION. WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE SO MUCH ENERGY. HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE THOSE 'CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT' APPLIANCES LIKE AN ELECTRIC CARVING KNIFE, AN ELECTRIC BACON FRYER, ELECTRIC CAN OPENERS, ELECTRIC ICE CRUSHERS, AND THOSE ELECTRIC CHOPPING INSTRUMENTS THAT IF YOU SEND AWAY FOR WITHIN 24 HOURS, YOU GET A DOZEN JOHNNY MATHIS RECORDS?

THAT'S THE WAY WE'RE USED TO LIVING. WE USE ABOUT A THIRD OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY AND MAKE UP ONLY ONE-TWENTIETH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. THIS IS A GREAT COUNTRY . . . A COUNTRY WITH A HISTORY OF PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BUT IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR FROM OUR ORIGINS. WE'VE SURROUNDED OURSELVES WITH LARGESS AND LUXURY, BUT THOSE ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE.

I BELIEVE THAT THE INEVITABLE CHANGES IN OUR LIFE STYLES WILL BE BENEFICIAL. THE SILVER LINING OF THE ENERGY CRISIS IS THAT WE WILL ADOPT NEW STANDARDS THAT WILL BE MORE SUITED TO THE TIMES WE LIVE IN. OUR FAMILIES MAY BECOME STRONGER. OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES WE HAVE AROUND US MAY BE ENHANCED. WE MAY TRADE OUR 'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES' ATTITUDE FOR A 'SHARING WITH OTHERS' ETHIC.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LIVED WITH ADVERSITY AND OVERCOME SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS. THIS COUNTRY'S RESOURCEFULNESS AND RESILIENCY IS REMARKABLE. SO, LOOKING BACK, TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW, WE MAY SAY THAT THIS INTERIM PERIOD -- BEFORE WE LEARNED TO HARNESS SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY -- WAS AN NECESSARY TIME OF TRANSITION. A TIME WHEN VALUES WERE REDEFINED AND LIVES ENRICHED. A TIME WHEN THOSE WHO SOUGHT CHANGE RECEIVED THE OPPORTUNITY AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO SO.

IN EDUCATION WE HAVE WATCHED VALUES CHANGE. VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WERE IGNORED A SHORT TIME AGO. NOW A SCHOOL LIKE SHAWSHOEN TECH IS IN A POSITION WHERE DESPITE A DOUBLING OF ENROLLMENT, HUNDREDS OF ADDITIONAL STUDENTS WHO WANT TO ATTEND SIMPLY CANNOT BE ACCOMODATED. AS YOU KNOW, BUSINESSES ARE LOOKING FOR PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE. AND EDUCATION IS RESPONDING. WE MUST ENCOURAGE AND ASSUME THE COSTS FOR THIS RESPONSE. THIS IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE THOUSANDS OF COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO NOW CANNOT FIND A JOB IN THEIR FIELD, FOR STUDENTS WITH INADEQUATE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONS, AND FOR THOSE WHO NEVER COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL.

TO PREPARE FOR THIS MORE REALISTIC WORLD THAT I'VE BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT, IT'S TIME THAT WE COUNSEL YOUNG PEOPLE BETTER TO MAKE USE OF THEIR NATURAL SKILLS AND DIRECT THEM TOWARDS JOBS WITH A FUTURE. WE LOSE TOO MANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE SUBJECTS THEY ARE FORCED TO STUDY.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NECESSARY COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES WITHOUT FURTHER BURDENING LOCAL BUDGETS, I AM NOW CONSIDERING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OFFICES IN SCHOOLS. THE LABOR DEPARTMENT WOULD RUN THESE OFFICES. THIS FEDERAL AGENCY PRESENTLY DEALS WITH EMPLOYMENT TRENDS. THEY COMPILE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, ADMINISTER THE JOB CORPS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND CETA PROGRAMS. THIS TYPE OF EXPERTISE COULD COMPLEMENT PRESENT GUIDANCE DEPARTMENTS. WHO KNOWS? IF I HAD THE PROPER KIND OF ADVICE, I MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD TO DRIVE MY FATHER'S LAUNDRY TRUCK, TAKE TWO JOBS IN SCHOOL, JOIN THE PEACE CORPS, BE A CITY COUNCILLOR OR COUNTY COMMISSIONER . . . THEY COULD HAVE TOLD ME TO RUN FOR CONGRESS RIGHT AWAY.

IN CONCLUSION, WE WILL SEE MANY CHANGES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. BUT RATHER THAN AWAIT THE INEVITABLE, LET'S INTEGRATE THESE NEW FACTORS INTO OUR LIVES IN A POSITIVE WAY. ONLY THEN CAN WE LOOK CONFIDENTLY FORWARD TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN LONGINGLY BACK AT WHAT SOON WILL BE THE PAST.