
Governor Thompson's Remarks at
St. Croix Meadows Greyhound Racing
Thursday, June 20, 1991

THANK YOU, TOM (Ryther)

IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE IN HUDSON ON THIS EXCITING DAY.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING TO PLACE
YOUR WAGER ... SO, I WILL KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF.

I MUST SAY THAT I AM QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THIS
BEAUTIFUL COMPLEX ... I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS
CONSIDERED TO BE THE "PREMIER RACETRACK IN THE
COUNTRY".

THIS \$40 MILLION DEVELOPMENT TELLS ME THAT THERE'S A
GREAT AMOUNT OF ENTHUSIASM SURROUNDING ST. CROIX
MEADOWS.

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE AN IMPORTANT MOMENT -- NOT
ONLY FOR HUDSON AND ST. CROIX MEADOWS ... BUT FOR
TOURISM, THE ECONOMY, AND WISCONSIN GREYHOUND
RACING INDUSTRY.

TONIGHT'S OPENING CEREMONY SIGNALS A NEW BEGINNING
HERE IN THE WESTERN WISCONSIN.

THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA OF THE STATE NOW HAS A MAJOR
TOURIST ATTRACTION THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING
SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

HERE IN HUDSON ... THE TRACK HAS ALREADY MEANT
CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR 2500 WORKERS.

AND NOW, AS THE GATES OPEN, 475 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WILL
HAVE FULL OR PART-TIME JOBS AT THE TRACK WHICH WILL
HAVE A PAYROLL OF \$9 MILLION.

COLLECTIVELY, RACETRACK CONSTRUCTION AND

DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE NEARLY \$135 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FOR OUR STATE.

- THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: WISCONSIN'S SPORTING INDUSTRY WILL TRIGGER SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FOR THE CITY OF HUDSON, FOR ST. CROIX COUNTY, AND FOR THE STATE.

I COMPLIMENT BURT NORDSTRAND, MAYOR ANGELSON, THE HECHTS AND A HOST OF OTHER COMMUNITY OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS.

YOU'VE EMBRACED A NEW OPPORTUNITY ... YOU'VE TAILORED YOUR PLANS TO FIT THE AREA'S OVERALL TOURISM PLAN ... YOU'VE OVERCOME OBSTACLES ... AND YOU'VE DONE IT WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF COMMITMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, AND EXCELLENCE.

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THE ST. CROIX MEADOWS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT OTHER AREA BUSINESSES.

ALREADY, THIS PARK STANDS AS AN ANCHOR TO A 300-THOUSAND ACRE DEVELOPMENT PARK RIGHT OFF A BRAND NEW INTERCHANGE WHICH IS POISED TO ACCOMMODATE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL BUSINESSES.

THIS IS GREAT NEWS FOR MANY OTHERS WHO LIVE, AND WORK, AND EARN THEIR LIVING HERE IN ST. CROIX COUNTY.

BUT, ALONG WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMES RESPONSIBILITY AND A CHALLENGE.

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO EFFECTIVELY -- AND SUCCESSFULLY -- ADDRESS THE SOCIAL AND HUMANE CONCERNS THAT ARE AN INEVITABLE COMPONENT OF A SPORT SUCH AS THIS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE OWNERS, OPERATORS, AND REGULATORS WILL RISE TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE.

ALREADY, WISCONSIN IS A LEADER IN SETTING UP REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND HUMANE TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

OUR PROGRAMS ARE HIGHLY REGARDED, AND SERVE AS MODELS FOR OTHER STATES IMPLEMENTING PARI-MUTUAL

RACING.

THE BOARD IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ITS EFFORT.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE, AND MY OFFICIAL CHARGE TO THE BOARD, THAT REGULATION OF RACING CONTINUES ... WITH A STRONG SENSITIVITY TO SOCIAL AND HUMANE CONCERNS.

THIS WILL BE THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE SUCCESS OF PARI-MUTUAL RACING IN WISCONSIN.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, AND BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT YEAR HERE AT ST. CROIX MEADOWS!