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# Dedication of the Leland Schoonover Water Laboratory

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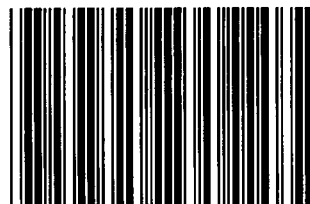
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BAUCUS

DEDICATION OF THE LELAND SCHOONOVER WATER LABORATORY  
YELLOW BAY RESEARCH STATION - FLATHEAD LAKE

MAY 3, 1981

THANK YOU FOR THE KIND INTRODUCTION, JIM. JOINING EVERYONE HERE TODAY TO DEDICATE THIS IMPRESSIVE LABORATORY IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME.

SEEING SO MANY LONG-TIME FRIENDS IS ALWAYS A TREAT. I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO SHARE THE HONORS OF THIS DAY WITH PRESIDENT BOWERS, DEAN SOLBERG, DR. TIBBS, AND DR. STANFORD. THEIR DEDICATION TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TO THE RESEARCH STATION IS WELL KNOWN AND APPRECIATED BY ALL OF US.

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, THIS FINE FACILITY WILL BE A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF ALL WHO MADE THIS GATHERING POSSIBLE.

IN ANOTHER SENSE, BEING HERE AT YELLOW BAY IS A PLEASURE IN AND OF ITSELF. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, I'D SWAP THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC FOR THE SHORES OF THE FLATHEAD ANY DAY!

THAT ASIDE, THE REASON FOR OUR GATHERING MAKES THIS A SPECIAL DAY IN TWO WAYS. THE LABORATORY AND THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IT WILL PLAY IN EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON A BIT LATER. BUT, FIRST, I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE MAN FOR WHOM THIS LABORATORY IS NAMED.

LELAND H. SCHOONOVER IS THE KIND OF A RICH, FULL-SOUNDING NAME THAT WILL READ WELL ON THE PLAQUE DEDICATING THIS NEW BUILDING. FOR THOSE OF US WHO KNEW THE MAN, HOWEVER, HE WILL BE REMEMBERED SIMPLY AS "SCHOONY."

FOR SOME ASPECTS OF THIS MULTI-FACETED MAN'S LIFE AND CAREER, OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE FAR MORE QUALIFIED THAN I TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE.

AS AN EDUCATOR AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS STRETCHING FROM HARLEM TO POLSON, SCHOONY IS BEST HONORED BY THE HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS WHO BENEFITTED FROM HIS FIRM BUT THOUGHTFUL GUIDANCE.

SCHOONY'S MANY FRIENDS IN THE POLSON AREA KNOW FIRST HAND ABOUT HIS WORK AS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER. HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO POLSON OUTDOORS, INC., HIS ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN 4-H AND BOY SCOUTS ARE WELL KNOWN. SCHOONY WAS EVEN RECOGNIZED AS AN HONORARY CHIEF OF THE KOOTENAI TRIBE AND PRESENTED WITH HIS OWN SET OF BUCKSKINS FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THE 1960 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

MANY, TOO, REMEMBER HIM AS AN ATHLETE AND AN OUTDOORSMAN, AND RECALL HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR BASEBALL, HIS REFEREEING OF BASKETBALL GAMES AND HIS LOVE OF THE OUTDOOR LIFE.

AS A FAMILY MAN, NO BETTER TRIBUTE COULD BE PAID TO SCHOONY THAN THAT OF HIS WIFE DOROTHY, HIS DAUGHTERS CAROL AND JOAN, AND HIS GRANDCHILDREN.

IT WAS AS AN ACTIVE LEADER IN MONTANA POLITICS, HOWEVER, THAT I KNEW AND ADMIRERD SCHOONY. THE SUPPORT HE ENJOYED IN THE POLSON AREA WAS REFLECTED IN HIS ELECTION TO THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE FOR FOUR SESSIONS. FROM THAT FORUM, SCHOONY STEADILY ADVANCED THE CAUSE THAT WAS TO OCCUPY MUCH OF HIS LIFE: THE CONSERVATION OF MONTANA'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

HE WAS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST IN THE BEST SENSE OF THAT TERM. RATHER THAN TOSSING HIS HANDS UP IN DISMAY, HE WORKED TO PROMOTE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. IN SCHOONY'S WORDS, "MAN IS STRONG ENOUGH OF CHARACTER AND WISE ENOUGH TO SEE THE PROBLEM, RECOGNIZE THE DANGER AND ARRIVE AT DECISIONS THAT WILL PERMIT HIM TO ADAPT TO THE NEEDS..."

ALTHOUGH I KNEW SCHOONY FROM HIS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, OUR PATHS REALLY DID NOT BEGIN TO RUN PARALLEL UNTIL THE INCEPTION OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN STUDY. FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THIS FIRST-OF-ITS KIND FIVE YEAR STUDY, EYES TURNED TO THE LOCAL LEVEL TO SEE WHETHER THIS MASSIVE RESEARCH PROJECT WOULD, INDEED, BE PULLED OFF.

TODAY WE ARE COMING INTO THE HOME STRETCH FOR THE FLATHEAD STUDY AND THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE PROJECT HAS FAR EXCEEDED EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS. WHILE UNTOLD NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS SHARE IN THIS CREDIT, THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT SCHOONY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE STUDY OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT. THROUGH THE FORCE OF HIS PERSONALITY, SCHOONY SERVED AS A MAGNET TO BRING TOGETHER THE DIVERSE INTERESTS THAT MAKE UP THE STUDY'S STEERING COMMITTEE.

THE END RESULT WILL BE A SOLID, USEABLE PRODUCT THAT WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR CRITICAL LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN.

THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE FLATHEAD STUDY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AND THE BIOLOGICAL STATION HERE AT YELLOW BAY HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN PERFORMING WATER STUDIES AND REPORTING ON THE DATA.

NATURALLY, WITH THIS NEW LABORATORY, OUR EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT THIS INQUIRY INTO THE FRESH WATER BIOLOGY OF THE REGION WILL CONTINUE. THE LAB WILL ENABLE THE STUDENTS AND SCIENTISTS WORKING HERE AT YELLOW BAY TO BUILD ON PAST RESEARCH TO CROSS NEW FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE.

I DOUBT THAT WE COULD FIND MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO VOCALLY OPPOSE THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE DISADVANTAGES OF LIVING IN A VIRTUAL SANCTUARY OF THE "GOOD-LIFE" LIKE WESTERN MONTANA. ONE IS THAT WE SOMETIMES FORGET THE LIFE-OR-DEATH SERIOUSNESS OF RESEARCH SUCH AS THIS.

A RECENT REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD IN THE YEAR 2000 PUTS THIS KIND OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE,

THE ESSENCE OF THE "GLOBAL 2000" REPORT WAS DRAMATICALLY CAPTURED IN ITS FIRST PARAGRAPH:

"IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, THE WORLD IN 2000 WILL BE MORE CROWDED, MORE POLLUTED, LESS STABLE ECOLOGICALLY, AND MORE VULNERABLE TO DISRUPTION THAN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN NOW. SERIOUS STRESSES INVOLVING POPULATION, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE AHEAD. DESPITE GREATER MATERIAL OUTPUT, THE WORLD'S PEOPLE WILL BE POORER IN MANY WAYS THAN THEY ARE TODAY."

IN SHORT, THE PROJECTIONS ARE GRIM. WHAT'S WORSE, THE PROJECTIONS ARE, BY MOST ACCOUNTS, CONSERVATIVE. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF OUR WORLDWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICAMENT CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S FAREWELL ADDRESS IS THUS WORTH RECALLING. HE SAID:

"THE RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION OF THIS PLANET IS A TIME BOMB, AS GREAT A THREAT TO BOTH OUR MATERIAL AND OUR GLOBAL SURVIVAL AS IS THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR ANNIHALATION."

BUT THE SITUATION IS NOT ENTIRELY HOPELESS. THE TIME BOMB MAY YET BE DEFUSED.

A REPORT SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED ENTITLED "GLOBAL FUTURE: TIME TO ACT," REMINDS US OF THE VERY BIG "IF" CONTAINED IN THE GLOBAL 2000 REPORT.

IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, WE CAN EXPECT A WORLD POPULATION OF MORE THAN 6.35 BILLION PEOPLE -- 50 PERCENT MORE THAN ARE JOSTLING EACH OTHER FOR A PLACE IN THE SUN TODAY.

BT, DOUBLING OUR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CAN HOLD DOWN THIS PROJECTED LEVEL IN 2000 BY ONE-HALF BILLION AND CAP THE ULTIMATE WORLD OVERLOAD AT 8 BILLION RATHER THAN 12.2 BILLION.

IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL BE MALNOURISHED AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. WORLDWIDE CROPLANDS THE SIZE OF THE STATE OF MAINE IN AREA ARE TURNING INTO BARREN DESERT LAND EACH AND EVERY YEAR. IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE, WE ARE PAVING OUT OF EXISTENCE MORE THAN 1 MILLION ACRES OF PRIME FARM LAND EACH YEAR.

BT, THE CORNER CAN BE TURNED ON PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DWINDLING AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITH ACTIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CAN GREATLY MULTIPLY CROP YIELD AND MINIMIZE HUMAN SUFFERING.



IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, THE WORLD'S FORESTS WILL HAVE SHRUNK BY 40 PERCENT IN THE YEAR 2000. WITH A FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION TODAY RELYING ON FIREWOOD AS ITS PRINCIPAL FUEL, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE SEVERE. BT, WITH INTENSIVE REFORESTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, THE TIDE CAN BE TURNED.

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR TODAY, HOWEVER, IS THE PROJECTION MADE BY THE GLOBAL 2000 REPORT CONCERNING WATER.

IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, THE DEMAND FOR FRESH WATER WILL INCREASE 200 TO 300 PERCENT FROM 1975 TO 2000. POLLUTION OF EXISTING SUPPLIES WILL AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, VIRTUALLY ENSURING REGIONAL CONFLICTS OVER WATER.

BT, PRESENT TRENDS DO NOT HAVE TO CONTINUE. THE WORK DONE AT YELLOW BAY IN THE PAST AND THE RESEARCH MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NEW LAB POINTS THE WAY FOR AVERTING THIS CRISIS. BY STUDYING THIS VIRTUALLY PRISTINE WATER SYSTEM, WE CAN LEARN HOW TO MANAGE AND PROTECT THE WATERS OF THIS PLANET.

IN SHORT, I BELIEVE THAT THIS COUNTRY HAS THE POWER TO ALTER THE FUTURE. THE RESOURCES EXIST. THE SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND. ONLY THE WILL TO ACT MUST YET BE SUMMONED ON ALL FRONTS.

CLEARLY, THIS WILL TO ACT RESTS ON A VARIETY OF SHOULDERS. THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY MUST BE WILLING TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE WHICH IS PRESENTED BY THESE VASTLY COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST RECOGNIZE ITS INTEGRAL INVOLVEMENT IN SEARCHING FOR THESE SOLUTIONS. THE DECISION OF THE FLEISCHMANN FOUNDATION IN FUNDING THIS NEW LABORATORY IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS KIND OF EFFORT. YET, WHILE NOT ALL OF US HAVE THE LUXURY OF RESOURCES OF THIS MAGNITUDE, EACH OF US CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS SEARCH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW IN SOME FASHION. THE UNTOLD NUMBER OF CITIZEN-VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE FLATHEAD BASIN STUDY IS A CASE IN POINT.

IF THESE EFFORTS ARE TO SUCCEED, GOVERNMENT MUST NOT SHIRK ITS LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES. AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS MUST LOOK BEYOND THEIR PAROCHIAL INTERESTS AND PUT ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS WITHIN A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK. OUR VISION MUST NOT BE CLOUDED BY DAY-TO-DAY CONCERNS; WE MUST LOOK TO THE DECADES AHEAD OF US.

REGRETTABLY, SOME OF THE BUDGET CUTS BEING FORCEFULLY ADVOCATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT A DANGEROUS THREAT TO THIS LONG-RANGE EFFORT. FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH HAS BEEN SLASHED. THE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT ABILITIES OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN IMPAIRED. EVEN THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY -- THE AUTHORS OF THE GLOBAL 2000 REPORT -- HAS SEEN ITS BUDGET CUT IN HALF. WHILE I SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF FISCAL AUSTERITY IN GENERAL, THIS IS ONE AREA WHERE I FEAR WE MAY BE A PENNY WISE AND A POUND FOOLISH.

ABOVE ALL, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME. PROMPT AND VIGOROUS CHANGES IN PUBLIC POLICY ARE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE OUR OPTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION.

AN APPROPRIATE AND A HOPEFUL CONCLUSION TO THESE THOUGHTS IS CONTAINED IN REMARKS MADE BY LELAND SCHOONOVER TO THE POLSON ROTARY CLUB A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO. IN HIS OWN SIMPLE, FORTHRIGHT WAY, SCHOONY HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD. HE SAID:

"WHATEVER OUR DECISIONS MIGHT BE, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT NATURE DID NOT BEGIN WITH US AND WE HOPE IT WILL NOT END WITH US. WE ARE ONLY STEWARDS AND THE METHOD IN WHICH WE CARRY OUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEWARDSHIP WILL BE OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS."

I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION. CONGRATULATIONS ARE CLEARLY IN ORDER TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS LABORATORY A REALITY. MY BEST WISHES AND CONFIDENCE GO WITH THE STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO WILL WORK HERE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THANK YOU.