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High Technology Forum (1)

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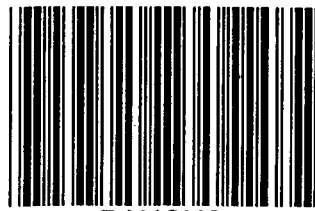
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BAUCUS

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HIGH TECHNOLOGY FORUM
SENATOR MAX BAUCUS

BIG SKY, MONTANA
AUGUST 22, 1986

FIRST, LET ME GIVE MY SINCEREST THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AT JOHN FLUKE MANUFACTURING, THEIR GIFT TO MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

IT IS A SIGNIFICANT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN MONTANA.

I AM ALSO VERY HONORED INDEED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A GIFT.

COMPETITIVENESS, MONTANA EMERGES

WHEN I FIRST DECIDED TO ORGANIZE THIS FORUM, FRANKLY, I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS. I DIDN'T KNOW IF EVEN FIVE CORPORATIONS WOULD COME TO MONTANA. AND IF THEY DID, THE PROSPECT OF THEIR BEING UNIMPRESSED WAS FRIGHTENING.

AFTER ALL, WHEN ONE THINKS OF "HIGH-TECH," MONTANA ISN'T THE FIRST PLACE THAT COMES TO MIND.

BUT THE UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION THIS MORNING PROVES THAT MONTANA DOES HAVE IMPORTANT RESEARCH TAKING PLACE IN ITS LABS.

THE PANEL THIS AFTERNOON WILL SHOW THAT MONTANA BUSINESSES CAN GET THOSE DISCOVERIES TO THE MARKET PLACE.

AND, JUST AS IMPORTANT, STATE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ITS ROLE AND IS GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO BOTH.

BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT--IT'S A RELATIVELY NEW BUT NECESSARY RELATIONSHIP IN TODAY'S HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD. BUT IT'S A MARRIAGE THAT MUST SUCCEED IF MONTANA IS GOING TO DEVELOP ITS LIMITED RESOURCES.

EACH PARTNER IS SHOWING AN AGGRESSIVE COMMITMENT, AND I FEEL VERY GOOD ABOUT THAT.

IT MEANS WE KNOW THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO THE REAL PROBLEM.

AND WE DO HAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO FACE. OUR PER CAPITA INCOME IS LOW.

WE ARE LOSING TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL
MARKETS.

AND OUR PRIMARY-RESOURCE ECONOMY HAS COME
"UNCOUPLED" FROM THE INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY.

BUT THE WORST NEWS WAS POINTED OUT BY DR.
DAVID BIRCH AT A RECENT CONFERENCE IN BUTTE. HE
SAID THAT MONTANA'S "ENTREPRENEURIAL" RANKING IS
ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE NATION.

THAT CONCERNS ME BECAUSE IT IS THE
ENTREPRENEUR WHO DREAMS OF NEW PRODUCTS AND SERV-
ICES, HE REPLACES LOST JOBS WITH NEW AND BETTER
PAYING ONES.

IT IS THE ENTREPRENEUR THAT KEEPS US
COMPETITIVE.

PRODUCTIVITY, COMPETITIVENESS, AND
ENTREPRENEURISM--THESE ARE KEY BUZZ WORDS IN BOTH
THE NATIONAL AND STATE ECONOMIES. THEY SIMPLY
REFER TO THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO A WORLD THAT HAS
BEEN MORE CHANGE IN THE LAST 25 YEARS THAN IN ALL
OF ITS PREVIOUS HISTORY.

FRANKLY, MONTANA AND THE NATION COULD DO
BETTER.

I THINK THE PARTICIPANTS HERE TODAY ARE THE
FIRST OF A NEW LINE OF ENTREPRENEURS WHO WILL LEAD
US INTO THE NEXT MONTANA ECONOMY.

MONTANA'S ECONOMY REALLY ISN'T VERY DIFFERENT
FROM THE NATION AS A WHOLE. BOTH SUFFER FROM WHAT
WE IDENTIFY AS A TRADE DEFICIT.

BUT I THINK WE'VE FOCUSED ON THE WRONG
PROBLEM.

THE LION'S SHARE OF OUR TRADE DEFICIT IS
CAUSED BY OUR OWN LACK OF COMPETITIVENESS. UNTIL
THAT IMPROVES, WE WON'T RESOLVE OUR STATE OR OUR
NATIONAL TRADE CRISIS.

NATIONALLY, WE HAVE A SEVERE PRODUCTIVITY
PROBLEM. OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS, U.S. PRODUC-
TIVITY ROSE BY ONLY 2.4% ANNUALLY. AT THE SAME
TIME, JAPAN'S RATE WHEN UP BY 8%--ALMOST THREE
TIMES AS MUCH. AND BRITAIN--WHICH SOME REGARD AS
AN EMPIRE IN DECLINE--ROSE BY 3.6%, FAR MORE THAN
THE U.S.

IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JAPAN HAS 62 ENGINEERING GRADUATES FOR EVERY 100,000 PERSONS, THE U.S. HAS 29.

JAPAN EMPLOYS 23 ROBOTS FOR EACH 10,000 WORKERS. THE U.S. EMPLOYS 3.

IN EDUCATION, THE AVERAGE JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT KNOWS TWICE AS MUCH MATH AS THE AMERICAN STUDENT.

AND FOUR YEARS AGO, OUR EIGHTH-GRADERS SCORED THIRD FROM THE BOTTOM IN MATH PROFICIENCY, BEHIND JAPAN, HUNGARY, FRANCE, CANADA AND ENGLAND.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE MUST MAKE EDUCATION A NATIONAL PRIORITY.

WE MUST USE THE TAX CODE SPARINGLY, BUT EFFECTIVELY TO PROMOTE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. WE MUST PROMOTE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN OUR UNIVERSITIES.

FOREIGN DUMPING, SUCH AS IN THE SEMI-
CONDUCTOR INDUSTRY, MUST BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY AND
DECISIVELY.

WE MUST LEARN FROM OTHERS IN MUCH THE SAME
WAY JAPAN HAS LEARNED FROM US--BY TRANSLATING OUR
TECHNICAL LITERATURE. I'M PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT
THE JAPANESE TRANSLATION ACT, A BILL I INTRODUCED
EARLY THIS YEAR, WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE
PRESIDENT JUST LAST WEEK.

NOW, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL TRANSLATE
JAPANESE TECHNICAL LITERATURE SO AMERICAN
BUSINESSES CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT JAPANESE TECH-
NOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO INTRODUCED THE YOUNG COMMISSION ACT,
WHICH EMBODIES THE BEST IDEAS OF THAT COMMISSION
AND THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON COMPETITIVENESS
FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION.

AND I HAVE ANOTHER SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVING
THE NATION'S COMPETITIVENESS. LARGE CORPORATIONS
MUST LOOK FOR WAYS TO NURTURE AND INVEST IN SMALL
BUSINESSES.

IT IS OUR SMALLER COMPANIES THAT HAVE PROVIDED ALL OF THE NET NEW JOBS IN THIS DECADE AS WELL AS MOST OF THE NEW INNOVATION. IF OUR LARGE CORPORATIONS ARE TO BE COMPETITIVE, THEY MUST LEARN THE TECHNIQUES USED BY SMALL BUSINESSES.

THAT IS WHERE THIS FORUM COMES IN. IN OUR OWN SMALL WAY, MONTANA MUST CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS.

WE CAN DO THIS IN MANY WAYS:

IT MAY BE THROUGH A LESS COSTLY PROCESS FOR PURIFYING DRUGS AND LIQUIDS.

IT MAY BE IN MORE ACCESSIBLE DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

IT MIGHT BE IN GIVING SMALLER MANUFACTURERS THE AUTOMATED EFFICIENCY NOW ONLY AVAILABLE TO LARGE FACTORIES.

IT COULD SIMPLY BE ADAPTING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO MAKING FURNITURE OUT OF SOFTWOOD LUMBER.

OR, PRODUCING NEW STRAINS OF BEEF TO MEET THE DEMAND OF A MORE HEALTH CONSCIOUS CONSUMING PUBLIC.

THESE ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF NEW PRODUCTS OUT OF OLD RESOURCES.

OLD PRODUCTS BUILT A BETTER WAY.

MONTANA CAN BE A VERY ENTICING LOCATION FOR THESE BUSINESSES.

EDUCATION IN MONTANA IS VERY COMPETITIVE. COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS RANK FIRST NATIONWIDE IN A.C.T. SCORES.

MONTANA IS SIXTH HIGHEST IN THE NATION IN PER-STUDENT EXPENDITURE. WE'RE FIRST IN COMPUTER ACCESSIBILITY, WITH ONE COMPUTER TO EVERY 30 STUDENTS.

OUR WORK FORCE IS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, AND ENERGY COSTS ARE SOME OF THE CHEAPEST IN THE COUNTRY.

OUR LIFESTYLE KEEPS WORKERS REFRESHED, UNFETTERED, HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

I THINK MONTANA WILL BE AN ATTRACTIVE LOCATION IN, WHAT DAVID BIRCH CALLS, THE NEW "THOUGHTWARE" ECONOMY.

WE ARE WELL ON THE WAY. IN RECENT MONTHS I HAVE DISCOVERED NEW UNIVERSITY TALENT AND RESOURCES. I HAVE FOUND ENTREPRENEURS MOVING BACK HOME, BRINGING OTHERS WITH THEM TO SET UP PROMISING VENTURES.

THE CRITICAL INGREDIENT NOW IS MOTION.

CONSTANT MOVEMENT.

THE MONTANA ALLIANCE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS DOING A TERRIFIC JOB IN THAT DEPARTMENT, BUT THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH SO FEW CAN DO.

THE GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MONTANA TECH'S NEW PRESIDENT, DR. NORMAN LINDSAY WILL PROVIDE NEW MOMENTUM.

AND PERHAPS, SOME MOVEMENT MAY BE GENERATED
HERE TODAY.

YOU KNOW, NO ONE, EVEN IN THE ACADEMIC COM-
MUNITY, HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO PRECISELY DESCRIBE
AN ENTREPRENEUR. YET SOMEHOW, WE ALL KNOW.

THEY ARE THE ONES WHO GET THINGS DONE--
FREQUENTLY AGAINST HIGH ODDS.

I'M SEEING MORE ENTREPRENEURS THAN EVER
BEFORE IN MONTANA. IT'S NOT THAT WE DIDN'T BREED
THEM BEFORE, BUT THEY GENERALLY LEFT.

NOW, THEY'RE COMING HOME.

AND MORE WILL FOLLOW.

THANK YOU.