

Rep. Tangretti Remarks

Four H Leaders

Feb. 12, 1992

*Apology -
Falling Respect
inspired John*

(Usual Greetings and Acknowledgements)

I want to thank all of you for your generous invitation to the 4-H Leader's Kick-Off Dinner... for the fine meal and most especially for the pleasure and the privilege of your company.

It may sound routine for a speaker to say this...but it is nevertheless true...that mere words can't express the debt of gratitude that is owed to people such as yourselves...the 4-H Leaders of Westmoreland County.

To understand what I mean you need only open any newspaper in America today, turn on any television news program, or scan the covers on any magazine rack at the local newsstand.

There you'll see the results of the neglect of our nation's children...of their need for caring adults...of the example that is missing from so many of their lives...the example that would show them what it means to be a loving, responsible, law-abiding, functioning adult in today's society.

They can't get this from a book. And they surely can't get it from a television set or from the movies where so much of their time, and ours, is spent.

They can only get it from a living example, an adult such as you who is willing to sacrifice time, leisure and comfort to share their life experience...their skills and wisdom with another person.

If you were to describe the 4-H program in writing...in a catalog or course description...it would probably describe at length the courses offered in food and nutrition, embryology, cultural diversity ...or one of 150 different study areas.

And, yes, they are learning all of that, and it is important knowledge that will serve them throughout their lives.

But along with that, they are learning about themselves...what kind of person they can be and ought to be.

And they are learning that through person-to-person contact with you.

We hear a lot about values education...and whether it should be taught in our schools...and how it should be taught.

The fact is, youngsters are learning values every day whether the schools teach it or not.

They are learning values from their peers, from the media, from the entertainment industry and a hundred different sources.

And when they are under your charge, they are learning values from you...even if the material you are teaching is completely technical in nature and has nothing to do with personal conduct or with a formal system of beliefs or ethics.

We know very well how youngsters soak up knowledge and information, not just from course material but from their impressions and observations of the people and events around them.

And when they're with you, they're learning about the technical project they're working on and they're absorbing something more.

They're learning that here's a person, my 4-H Leader, who gets a lot of satisfaction out of helping others.

And they're saying to themselves, I could do that too, and I will.

They're learning that here's a person who has the discipline to work hard and master a complex skill.

And thinking, I could do that too, and I will.

They're learning that here's someone who can lead other people to achieve goals they didn't think they were capable of reaching.

And thinking to themselves, I could be a leader like that too.

Many of you have had the 4-H experience when you were kids, so you know and appreciate what it meant in your life. And you want others to have the benefit of that experience, just as you did.

And by passing that experience along, you are helping to ensure the future of the 4-H program.

At the state level, we're also working to preserve and support the work of 4-H and the many other contributions of Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service.

Those of you who heard or read about the Governor's recent budget proposals know the financial restraints we are faced with...not just for 4-H or the Cooperative Extension programs...but virtually across the board in state government.

The state's record since 1987 has been very supportive...with appropriations for Cooperative Extension Programs rising from \$12 million in '86 to close \$20 million last year.

For the coming year, the Governor has limited his spending request to a 1.4 percent increase overall, with actual cuts in many programs and the same level of funding as last year for Cooperative Extension Services.

Among the only programs to be funded at levels higher than last year in the Governor's budget are those for prisons and law enforcement.

That's the result of the neglect we as a society have shown toward our children.

And that's why the debt of our appreciation for your services and your leadership can never be adequately expressed...

Even though I hope the coming presentations and awards, and these remarks, will convey some measure of that gratitude.

Med Ass - 3x inflation Rate
outstrip any tax base - up by \$200 m
13,000 people per month

Choosing between ed & Human Services -
" " undesirable alternatives

WETA

\$ 170 m	Shortfall -	Corp tax
65 m	"	Sales tax
65 m	inc	income