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Remarks, delivered at the East Grand Rapids Rotary on October 18, 1983

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EAST GRAND RAPIDS ROTARY - October 18, 1983 (noon meeting)
ALUMNI-HOMECOMING DINNER - October 21, 1983 (selected sections)

I. B Downtown Land
   A. B Failure of the Dome - September 14, 1978
   B. B Purchase of Elston Richards - October, 1980
      1. B Lunch with Fred Hubbard
   C. B Penn Central Railroad Property
   D. B G. R. Welding Company
   E. B General Electric - Clipper Link Belt deal

II. Cooperation with the city
   A. B Planning office desire for us to anchor the south boundary
      of development
   B. B Agreement to cooperate with DDA and City Commission

III. Questions
   A. B Why should GVSC be downtown?
      1. B We are - 4,000 students a year
      2. B Working people and employers - offer degree completion
         programs
   B. B Why can't the program continue as it is?
      1. B Not enough classroom space available for expanding
         program.
      2. B No laboratories for technology and science
      3. B Need for permanent computer installation
   C. B Can't GRJC provide programs?
      1. B Do not offer programs that compete with J.C.
      2. B Some people do not remember that J.C. offers only
         two year programs - GVSC has 4 years and masters
3. Agreement between our Board and Board of Education
   a. limit competition
   b. link curricula

D. Why should a public institution use riverfront land that will not be taxed?
   1. Remember when GVSC first started purchasing land it was not considered valuable.
   2. City planners believe our development will enhance area - attract private development
   3. We can help make privately owned hotel succeed - large conference program - need food and banquet facilities.
   4. If public museum moves to west bank site, there are opportunities for shared facilities - planning sessions have been held (shared parking)
   5. Downtown restoration has been a combination of private and public development
   6. By the time the land is filled with proposed projects - including housing and a hotel - the tax revenues based on 1983 tax rates should exceed what the property currently produces - (L.A., Chi.)

E. Why doesn't GVSC rehabilitate an old building if it needs facilities downtown?
   1. We have found rehabilitation costs the same to higher than new facilities - fire codes different for schools and colleges.
   2. Parking solution not easy near older buildings.
F. @ What will happen to the Allendale campus?
   1. @ Two kinds of students - older adults and regular students
   2. @ Housing filled - classes, even those in the evening, are usually filled in subjects needed for professional development.
   3. Purposely have not overbuilt in anticipation of enrollment leveling or drop. Will need remodeling, expansion of computer space and science labs.

G. @ Should the state spend tax dollars at this time to build a center in Grand Rapids?
   1. @ Two kinds of financing
   2. Taxes will be spent on education @

H. @ What will the center contain?
   1. @ 45 classrooms - essential
   2. @ Center for Economic Expansion and Job Creation
   3. @ Technological and engineering lab space to be shared with Ferris in a joint program.
   4. Channel 35 - computer or TV - enhance our local programming capabilities.
   5. @ Conference Center - professional development workshops

I. @ What is the future of our area and what role does higher education play?
   1. @ Energy centers for the nation.
   2. @ Economic Development - top priority as jobs change - (Birch - 50% jobs disappear each decade)
3. People need more education, not less, to keep economy sound.

4. Need more education to keep society sound - health care.

GVSC - Professional Commitment

Business & Management

Health Sciences

Computer and Science Technology

Isaiah - Where there is no vision, the people perish.