

ADDRESS TO 1991 MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS GET TOGETHER BY MR
DOUG TREASURE, PRESIDENT, M.C.A.V. INC.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL THIS MORNING. THANK YOU,
ON BEHALF OF THE M.C.A.V. FOR ATTENDING - THIS ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER HOLDS THE ASSOCIATION TOGETHER.

I WISH TO ESPECIALLY WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS
- THE HON. MR. ALLAN BROWN AND HIS WIFE AND MR PAT
McNAMARA.

AS I LOOK BACK OVER THE PAST YEAR, I WONDER WHAT WERE
THE NOTABLE POINTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S POINT OF VIEW?
THE BEST POINT IS THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF MEMBERS RUNNING
A LOT OF QUALITY CATTLE, STILL PRODUCING REAL WEALTH
FOR THE NATION IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND
SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

CHURCHILL SAID "ANY FOOL CAN SEE WHATS WRONG, IT TAKES
INTELLIGENCE TO SEE WHATS RIGHT".

IN A TIME OF SPIRITUAL MISERY, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE
POSITIVES, AND NOT DWELL ON THE WOES.

YES THINGS ARE NOT AS GOOD AS WE HAVE BEEN USED TO -
BUT LETS DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

2.

WE NOW HAVE MOST PRODUCTIVE BUSINESSES ON THE BRINK OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE, WHILST ON THE OTHER HAND WE HAVE ARMIES BUILT INTO EMPIRES, BASED ON ADMINISTRATION.

LARGE CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF IT, AND HAVE SUFFERED AS A RESULT, AND THEN DONE SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF IT AND, WE THE PEOPLE, HAVE SUFFERED AS A RESULT, BUT NOT ENOUGH HAS BEEN DONE ABOUT IT.

I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SPEND TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY ADMINISTERING THEMSELVES, AND TOO LITTLE TIME BEING SERVANTS OF THE PUBLIC.

BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS SITUATION - YES THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A PRODUCTIVE YEAR IN THE ALPS - THE WEANER STEERS BEING MORE AND MORE SOUGHT AFTER BY FATTENERS. WE ARE NOT BURDENED BY A HUGE STOCKPILE OF OUR PRODUCT - LIKE THE WOOL INDUSTRY, OR COSTS GETTING AHEAD OF RETURNS LIKE THE WHEAT INDUSTRY.

HOWEVER 1991 IS NOT LOOKING SO ROSY.

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3.

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WE HAVE, THROUGHOUT 1990 BEEN INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT ABOUT THE 1991 PHASEOUTS - MOSTLY AFFECTING THE BOGONG AREA.

WE ARE YET TO HEAR THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN FOR THESE MEMBERS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL HAS STATED THAT THIS PHASE OUT DECISION WAS BASE ON PHILOSOPHICAL GROUNDS, WE CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE PHASEOUTS.

THE WHOLE PHASE OUT ISSUE IS A RESULT OF MINORITY GROUP POLITICAL PRESSURE.

THE LATEST ISSUE WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH IS THAT OF WILDERNESS.

THE PUSH FOR WILDERNESS FROM EXTREMISTS COMES AS A RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PARK BEING SUCH A MULTI-USE AREA.

THEY ARENT ABIDING BY THE UMPIRE.

BECAUSE OF THE IMMENSE SIZE OF THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK, IT HAD TO INCORPORATE PRODUCTIVE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - THE DEBATE AS TO WHETHER IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SO LARGE IS NOW A THING OF THE PAST.

4.

THE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS ARE THE LATEST ATTEMPT TO CONTROL MORE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS POISED TO CREATE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF WILDERNESS IN THE HIGH COUNTRY.

THIS COULD AFFECT UP TO 20 CATTLEMEN. THOSE AFFECTED WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RUN ANY CATTLE IN WILDERNESS AREAS. THIS MAKES A MOCKERY OF THE THEN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES THAT NO MORE CATTLEMEN WILL BE THREATENED AFTER THE 1991 PHASE OUTS.

CATTLEMEN AND OTHER GROUPS WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE INPUT INTO THE NATIONAL PARKS MANAGEMENT - BUT NOT SO WITH WILDERNESS AREAS THE RULES ARE ALREADY SET, AND INCLUDE:

- (A) NO ROADS OR BUILDINGS,
- (B) NO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY - NO GRAZING, NO TOURS,
- (C) NO USE OF MECHANICAL TRANSPORT
- (D) NO USE OF ANY INDIGENOUS ANIMAL
- (E) NO HUNTING.

SO IT BECOMES A NON-MANAGED AREA - TO BE OVER-RUN WITH VERMIN AND NOXIOUS WEEDS.

THE FIRE DANGER WILL BECOME EXTREME.

THESE AREAS WILL NEVER GO BACK TO THE STATE THEY WERE IN PRIOR TO WHITE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE CHANGED THAT. FOR EXAMPLE THE VERMIN, THE WEEDS, THE IMPACT OF PEOPLE, OUR FIRE MANAGEMENT (SUCH AS IT IS) IS DIFFERENT - IT CAN NEVER GO BACK.

THERE ARE NO VALID REASONS FOR WILDERNESS - EVERYTHING POSITIVE ABOUT A WILDERNESS AREA CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A NATIONAL PARK.

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ALPINE PARK, THE THEN MINISTER, MRS KAY SETCHES, SAID IT WOULD BE A PARK FOR ALL PEOPLE, ALL SEASONS AND ALL TIME.

RESTRICTIVELY MANAGED AREAS WILL CONTRADICT THE MINISTER'S COMMITMENT.

WILDERNESS AREAS WOULD BE SPECIALIST BUSHWALKING AREAS, WHERE LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY BANNED.

FOR INSTANCE:

1. RECREATIONAL DEER HUNTING - DEER ARE NON-NATIVE AND COULD REACH PLAGUE PROPORTIONS.
2. CATTLE GRAZING - PART OF OUR HERITAGE AND A VALUABLE

6.

MANAGEMENT TOOL. IT IS A SUSTAINABLE USE OF A RENEWABLE RESOURCE.

3. SO INDEED IS TOURISM ON PUBLIC LAND.

4. MINERAL EXPLORATION - WE NEED TO KNOW WHATS IN AN AREA; WHETHER WE MINE IT IS ANOTHER DEBATE. MINERAL EXPLORATION CAN BE DONE BY SATELLITE AIRCRAFT OR LOW IMPACT PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES. WE DONT HAVE TO TEAR THE PLACE UP JUST TO DO A SURVEY. AS THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL STATED ABOUT MINERALS IN ITS WILDERNESS INVESTIGATION - " CERTAIN SPECIES...MAY PROVE TO BE VALUABLE...FOR MEDICAL PHARMACEUTICAL OR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES".

AMPLE MACHINERY EXISTS UNDER THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PRESERVATION OF ALL TRUE WILDERNESS IN THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK.

THE CATTLEMEN ARE PRACTISING CONSERVATIONISTS BUT THEY SAY NO TO CREATING WILDERNESS ON THE SCALE PROPOSED.

THE CATTLEMEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF HIGH COUNTRY ISSUES.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT.

WE HAVE NEARLY 2,000 PAID UP ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND

7.

THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS.

ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION I PLEDGE WE WILL NOT LET
YOU DOWN.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS PLEASE ASSIST US ANY WAY YOU
CAN.

AND THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY.