

Mr. Mayor, Madam Mayoress,
Distinguished Guests all.....

30 JUL 1973
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✓ Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for the very kind tribute you have paid to me. My thanks, too, to Councillor Oberholzer and Raadslid de Wet for their pleasing comments regarding my work in this Council. I find it difficult to adequately express my gratitude to the Councillors of this city for admitting me as a Freeman - the greatest honour they can bestow on any citizen.

✓ It is gratifying to feel that one's endeavours have been adjudged worthy of recognition in this way. I could have achieved little if it had not been for the co-operation, encouragement and support of my fellow Councillors, and the capable officials of this Council, and of many State Departments. I thank them for their trust and sustained help.

✓ This city has meant a great deal to me and my family. My Father came here from the Cape as a lad of twenty, when the city was four years old, and my Mother came from Ireland as a teenager some three years later. They both took a keen interest in community affairs, and encouraged their children to do the same. |

When the University of the Witwatersrand conferred on me an honorary degree, it was made clear in the citation that the achievements in Soweto were no single-handed endeavour, but the work of a team who brought great credit to the city. One does feel proud to have been a member of such a fine team, and I have received the kudos for the contributions of the many people who worked behind the scenes.

~~To those who saw Soweto grow from a shantytown to its present state of development, it is hard to visualise that this Council no longer has direct responsibility for the provision of services and amenities to the citizens of this "City within a City", and I think Johannesburg is the poorer for this, even though the Rate Fund will benefit!!~~

It is sobering to think that if I had entered the Council this year it would not have been possible to influence the development of Soweto to the extent I was able to do during my term of office, for now the Council will not have a Non-European Affairs Department.

This evening great compliments have been paid to the work I have done, but I am well aware that I have many critics. I have great sympathy with them, as many of their criticisms are valid. Some felt I was remote, forbidding and preoccupied with my own thoughts and doings -- a bit of a 'loner'. I am afraid that when annoyed my feelings are clearly apparent, as also when I feel people are wasting time, or talking what I consider to be nonsense, or not sticking to an agenda. When I was on the Management Committee, members, I am told, preferred to sit next to me rather than look at my frowning forehead. When I became Chairman they had no choice - they had to look my way!! Some of the Press found me uncommunicative, and one paper labelled me "the biggest no comment man in the business". I am not sure that this is not praise indeed for if recently many others had been 'no comment' men the political scene might be less confused, and more harmonious.

Few people who are not involved in municipal affairs realise the demands made on Councillors. Willynilly their families also have to make great sacrifices. I have been fortunate in the support of, and tolerance shown by my wife, sons and friends, for without all their help I could not have devoted my energies to Council affairs. My thanks to them.

My thanks, too, to all of you who have honoured me and my family by attending this function tonight. Mr. Eric Gaynor, my Mother's youngest brother is here; my eldest brother, Stakesby, has come from Rhodesia, and friends have come from Natal and the Eastern Transvaal. Thank you all for making the effort -- it is good to have you with us this evening.

During my period of office there were times of great stress and strain, when one dared not think of the consequences if we failed, but many there were who supported me on such occasions. I was also fortunate

in having a hide-out in the Drakensberg Mountains in the Eastern Transvaal. There one was able to relax and renew one's batteries and start again. To my great delight, Mr. Jack Buckler, the Mayor's Secretary, had the inspiration to suggest that my Scroll as a Freeman be decorated with illustrations of the wild flowers of that area, so to him, and the artist, Joan Pell, thanks for this beautiful reminder of the flowers I love so well. I hope you will have an opportunity of examining the scroll to see what a work of art it is.

Mr. Mayor, there only remains for me to say a final word of thanks - and that goes to you and your Council for arranging this function tonight.

JOHANNESBURG:

July 30, 1973.

7/21

I want to thank Councillor Widman and Raadslied Cuyler for their tributes to the Mayoress and me for what we have done during our term of office.

I must say
~~Firstly, can I say how much~~ we have enjoyed our year. It has been a strenuous one: at times it has been a great physical strain and we have wondered how we were to complete our term.

As Mayor one is rather isolated from the normal Council activities. It has been quite a relief not to have to spend the hours that I have been accustomed to give to reading Management Committee Agendas, and to attending long tedious Committee meetings. I hope my colleagues will have recognised the change in my countenance, because so many of the press photographs have pictured me in jovial mood instead of the scowling, frowning face which I have been alleged to wear at Committee meetings. Perhaps that countenance will return again this year.

I do want to add my tribute to those already paid to the Town Clerk, Clerk of the Council, Heads of Departments and other Officials. The Mayoress and I have endeavoured to visit all Departments, and have met a large number of the Council's employees. We would have liked to have seen more, but this was not possible in the time available to us. I have been a member of this Council for thirteen years, and had not seen a large number of the departmental activities. I would like to thank the Heads of the Departments for their courtesy during our visits. These visits have given me an insight into Council affairs, which I know will be of value to me on the Management Committee. So to the officials, my grateful thanks for the willing manner in which they have supplied me with information to enable me to get a grasp of the fundamental changes which are taking place in our city today.

In the Mayor's office one receives a tremendous number of overseas visitors. It has been a pleasure to be able to tell

them something of this City of Gold, and the role played by the Mining Industry in developing South Africa.

To all my colleagues on the Council I would like to say this: maintain your interest in Local Government. This is a great city - it is the pivot point in the development of the Republic. This city must not be strangled by its transport and traffic problems, and if we have regard for this great city we must all put our heads together to resolve the present problems.

Again my thanks to my colleagues for their tributes and for their assistance to the Mayoress and myself during this arduous but very happy year of Office.

JOHANNESBURG:

February 24, 1970.

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Reef Mayors Hampton Park

DIT IS MY AANGENAME PLIG ON ONS DANK TE BETUIG EERSTENS TEENOOR RAADSLID CROUSE EN SY PERSONEEL VIR HULLE ONDERNEMINGS GEES OM SO 'N UNIEKE FUNKSIE TE REEL — 'N NAGVLUG OOR DIE WITWATERS-
RAND GEBIED.

ONS WAT HIER WOON VERGEET SOMS DIE GROOT ROL WAT DIE ONTDEKKING VAN GOUD GESPEEL HET IN DIE ONTWIKKELING VAN SUID AFRIKA TOT VANDAG.

TWEEDENS WIL EK MY DANK BETUIG TEENOOR DIE SUID AFRIKAANSE LUGDIENS VIR WAT HULLE VANAAND VIR ONS GEDOEN HET.

ALLES IN HUL VERMOE IS GEDOEN OM DINGE SO GERIEFLIK MOONTLIK TE MAAK SODAT DIE AAND VIR ALMAL WAT BEVOORREG WAS OM TEENWOORDIG TE WEES 'N ONVERGEETLIKE AAND TE MAAK.

Thank you for Doctor.

Mrs Biggs

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R40



Omdat daar vanaand soweel gaste uit die
buiteland by hierdie funksie teenwoordig
is, wat die Afrikaanse taal nie verstaan
nie, sal ek my groete en die verwelkoming
inEngels oordra.

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