

1 MS. SMITH: Thank you, very good point.  
2 I appreciate your raising that.

3 On behalf of the governor again, thank  
4 you very much for listening to us this afternoon,  
5 for being concerned about this particular area for  
6 all of our compact and free association states and  
7 the Micronesian community in particular. Thank you,  
8 David Hanlon for your organization and for  
9 sponsoring this effort, for Josie and all of your  
10 work and making sure we were on time. She kept us  
11 all on time. And on behalf of all of you and again  
12 on behalf of the governor, mahalo.

13 MS. HOWARD: Thank you very much, Linda  
14 and Henry for your answers, and very, very  
15 informative. I learned so much, and I'm sure  
16 everyone did. At this time, I would like -- I would  
17 like to ask Dr. Hanlon to come and say some final  
18 comments.

19 MR. HANLON: It's been a long very good  
20 couple of days. I suppose the question at the end  
21 of any conference is what next? Is there a next?  
22 Well, it seems pretty clear from your voices that  
23 there will be other things to come. Indeed, this  
24 conference is not quite over in the sense that it  
25 will be broadcast and fairly soon to the larger

1 community on Olelo, and so other people will have  
2 the opportunity to hear what has been said these  
3 last two days, and I think that can only be a good  
4 thing.

5           The Center for Pacific Island Studies  
6 has paid for a transcription of this conference and  
7 all that has been said. There will be an executive  
8 summary as well as an extensive report and  
9 recommendation from the breakout sessions, and all  
10 of that will be transmitted to the legislature and  
11 also to the governor and to the mayor's office.

12           We have already had the opportunity to  
13 have dialogue with the governor's representatives.  
14 I think that has been a very good thing, and I  
15 firmly believe that that dialogue is going to  
16 continue and strongly over the days and months to  
17 come.

18           And perhaps most importantly has been  
19 the networking that has gone on during this  
20 conference, in between sessions, right after  
21 sessions, over lunch, and the dialogue also that is  
22 to come at the reception to which you are all  
23 involved. That kind of dialoguing, that kind of  
24 networking, I think, is only going to grow and  
25 expand and lead to the kinds of solutions and

1 actions that need to be taken to address the issues  
2 raised over these last couple of days.

3           It is already clear that there is going  
4 to be future efforts springing from this conference.  
5 I have heard of trips planned to the Big Island to  
6 talk about there what we have talked about here and  
7 perhaps other islands of Hawaii as well. And there  
8 has also been mention of a follow-up conference  
9 perhaps in 2010 to see how what has been articulated  
10 and expressed during our time together, how it will  
11 have been addressed over the next couple of years.  
12 So lots of good things I believe to come from our  
13 gathering here, and that is a credit, I think, to  
14 all of you for your considerable efforts.

15           What I need to do is to say thank you to  
16 a lot of people, and I want to say thank you first  
17 to Tisha Hickson and to Julie Walsh Croker who have  
18 expended a considerable amount of time and effort in  
19 working on the preparations and planning and  
20 logistics for this conference. They have been  
21 absolutely incredible.

22           But they and we could not have done it  
23 alone. In fact, I see ourselves as really conduits  
24 or vehicles for something larger, and that something  
25 larger involves the conference steering committee

1 that aided us, that guided us, that chided us when  
2 we needed to be chided and encouraged us at other  
3 times and really, I think, helped to make this  
4 conference the success that I not only believe but  
5 actually feel that it is and has been.

6           And so I wanted to mention Nia Aitaoto,  
7 Margarita Kolome, Canisius Filibert, Hilda Heine,  
8 Josie Howard, Emily Decule, Rodrigo Marusio, Richard  
9 Salvador, and Lillian Segal. Thank you, thank you,  
10 thank you, for being the most responsive and  
11 responsible of steering committees. Your input has  
12 been invaluable, and this, in fact, has been your  
13 conference perhaps more than is understood or  
14 recognized.

15           I want to say thank you to all of the  
16 local presentors and panelists that we have heard  
17 over the last couple of days. I think I as perhaps  
18 all of you were stunned by the elegance, by the  
19 eloquence, by the passion with which people spoke  
20 about their perspectives, about their experiences,  
21 their frustrations, their aspirations, and their  
22 hopes. It was truly an impressive and moving series  
23 of panels and talks that we heard, and I think we  
24 are all grateful for it.

25           I want to say a special thanks to those

1 of who you came to speak and who traveled from afar.  
2 I am thinking, of course, of Andon Amaraich, the  
3 former compact negotiator as he prefers to be known.  
4 Also Hilda Heine who gave us that marvelous keynote  
5 address on Thursday. James Naich from the FMS  
6 Embassy in Washington, DC, and, of course, Ben  
7 Graham who got us started on Wednesday and who so  
8 wonderfully articulated the summaries or  
9 recommendations from the breakout session groups.

10 I want to thank you as an audience. I  
11 think you were an incredible audience. I mean that.  
12 I have been to plenty of conferences, and  
13 attendance and enthusiasm often wanes at  
14 conferences, but what was remarkable about this  
15 conference was the constant attendance and also the  
16 commitment and interest and passion that you showed,  
17 and what I think is encouraging too is the very  
18 strong Micronesian input and the strong willingness  
19 on the part of us non-Micronesians to listen and to  
20 consider and to respond.

21 I need to thank Marshall and the staff  
22 here at the Imin Conference Center. They have been  
23 nothing but supportive and helpful.

24 I need to recognize as well Koko Nidim  
25 and the administrative staff over at the Center for

1 Pacific Island Studies. They did an awful lot of  
2 behind the scenes work involving all manner of  
3 issues and including complications involving the  
4 collapse of ATA.

5 Olelo, Olelo has been patient and  
6 supportive and is helping to allow the life of this  
7 conference to go on, and so thank you, Ever, and all  
8 of the wonderful people at Olelo.

9 I want to remind you about the  
10 evaluation forms for the second day, if you could  
11 please fill them out before you leave us.

12 I want to remind you again about the  
13 reception to which you are invited. We want to  
14 spend some time just kicking back, relaxing,  
15 socializing, and having some fun, so please join us  
16 downstairs for that reception. It is at the lower  
17 level.

18 I am going to turn it back to Josie who  
19 is going to bring the last couple of items of this  
20 conference to closure, but once again, thank you all  
21 very, very much for what I think has been a special  
22 two days.

23 I thought I mentioned Joanna Jacob. If  
24 I did not mention Joanna Jacob, I should have  
25 mentioned Joanna Jacob because she was a very hard

1 working and strong contributor to the steering  
2 committee, so my apologies, Joanna, for overlooking  
3 you on my list.

4 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, David. Like I  
5 mentioned before, that religion has become a big  
6 part of our culture and had shaped our culture, so  
7 in saying so, we have come to the end of our  
8 conference, and at this time, I would like to ask  
9 Reverend Robert Lorin to give the closing prayer.

10 PASTOR LORIN: Let us pray. Our  
11 heavenly Father, we certainly thank you for two  
12 beautiful days of sharing, exchanging, fellowship  
13 together. It is not going to be complete without  
14 your help, and we surely thank you for that. We ask  
15 that you continue to bless us as we leave this place  
16 and continue to bless this kind of fellowship  
17 together. As we leave this place we ask that you  
18 guide our ways, and wherever we are, wherever we go,  
19 we ask that you cover us under your mighty wing. In  
20 Jesus's name, we ask all this. Amen.

21 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Robert, for such  
22 a beautiful prayer, and once again, all right, we  
23 have come to the end of our conference. But I have  
24 one announcement, a request from the director of  
25 Olelo, for the Micronesians who are in the crowd, he

1 would like to say a few words, one minute, oh, I'm  
2 sorry sorry. I misunderstood. I thought it was a  
3 he. Sorry.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Hello, everyone. I am  
5 (inaudible) Williams, and I am the manager of the  
6 Palolo Media Center, which is over in Palolo Valley,  
7 and we are really excited about this opportunity to  
8 bring this conference on the air. Olelo is really  
9 interested in putting more Pacific Island  
10 programming on our stations. We have created a  
11 Pacific Island block, and we are looking to you to  
12 help us provide that kind of information to the  
13 public, so please see me afterwards. We have got  
14 all kinds of things that we can offer you in terms  
15 of doing shows in our studio and coming on location  
16 like we have today to bring your messages on the  
17 air, so as part of the follow-up to this exciting  
18 conference, I would like to see a lot more  
19 programming of Pacific Island issues on Olelo.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. HOWARD: Thank you very much. I  
22 guess we can either go, or we invite all of you to  
23 come down and join us downstairs where we had lunch  
24 today for our closing reception. Thank you very  
25 much.

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(Conference concluded at 5:00 p.m.)

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