

REMARKS BY  
SECRETARY OF STATE TOM ADAMS  
(Acceptance of deed to land for new Mental Health Institute)  
**Opening Day Speech**

First, let me say how delighted we are to have the opportunity to participate in this historic gathering. Historic because we of the delegation consider that the announcement to be made at this gathering coupled with the medical school to be the single most significant advancement in the field of health, welfare and just general economic development that the west coast of Florida has experienced since the creation of the University Of South Florida.

The immediate plans for example for the medical school and the regional mental hospital called for the expenditure of approximately 26 million dollars. Add to this the facilities known as the VA Hospital and the University Community Hospital and we are talking about a total capital outlay for this medical complex almost the same in dollar amount as the facilities we now see on this campus. To say nothing of the fact that as the medical school attracted the mental hospital, so will the medical school and mental hospital attract other related educational and medical facilities. Along with this of course, comes the professionals, the ancillary services as well as the direct benefit to the community in terms of scientific research and medical services.

This of course, was accomplished through the combined effort of the executive branch of government and the legislative branch. I want to tell you how proud I am to be a part of this delegation. I have never been associated with finer men, nor have I ever seen a group work together, effectively, each making substantial and significant contribution to the whole. The house worked with the senate as if we were but one body and again also, we must accept the fact that without cooperation and direct assistance from those of adjoining counties, we would not have been successful and we must acknowledge the fact that in the floor debate on this subject, we were supported vigorously and actively by representatives and senators from Polk, Manatee and Pinellas County.

In closing, let me just say for those who are critical of the cabinet system should have had an opportunity to see as we did how the executive branch works with the legislative branch. I can tell you that I have watched and known Senator Adams for many years and as chairman of this committee he exhibited not only great knowledge in the field of mental health as was reflected by his past efforts in this field, but he also exerted the perseverance and the leadership role that was indispensable and of great comfort to us in the legislative branch of government. We are eternally grateful to you, Senator Adams and to you Superintendent Christian and the other members of the cabinet and on behalf of this delegation and the citizens of the west coast of Florida as well as the millions of lives that will be affected directly and indirectly by your efforts, we want to tell you that we are grateful, we acknowledge your assistance and help and acknowledge that, without it, none of this would have been possible. Thank you.