

Office of the Governor State of Oregon



Gov. Vic Atiyeh
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon
378-3121

August 26, 1981

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Governor Atiyeh

Geraldine C. "Gerry" Thompson, Salem, was named today as Gov. Vic Atiyeh's new executive assistant.

Thompson fills the position currently held by Lee Johnson who has announced his resignation effective September 4. Johnson was Atiyeh's first executive assistant having held that position since December 1978.

Thompson, 42, currently is the vice president for marketing for Oregon Physicians Service-Blue Shield (OPS), Portland. She will assume the governor's office position before September 15. Her yearly salary will be \$55,416.

The new governor's assistant has worked for OPS since 1962. In addition to her current position she has served for the firm as vice president and general sales manager, assistant vice president and manager of the southwest district, Salem branch office manager, and district services representative.

OPS is the second largest health insurance company in Oregon with over \$110 million in annual revenue. It is a not-for-profit organization which serves 450,000 Oregonians.

Prior to 1962 Thompson worked for Pacific Northwest Bell as a service representative in Newport, Corvallis, and Salem.

A native of Olympia, Wash., Thompson is a 1957 graduate of South Salem High School.

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



OCT 14 1986
Governor Atiyah

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

October 10, 1986

Floyd McKay
KGW-TV
1501 SW Jefferson
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Floyd:

In September of 1981 after having gone through the swearing in process to a most treasured position as Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff for the Governor, I was heartbroken when I viewed your commentary on TV that evening. If you will recall, the implication you left with the general public was that I was a "female" Executive Assistant and after quoting my salary you asked the taxpayers if it would really be worth it. I think you ended by saying "only time will tell."

The implication, Floyd, was that it was an overpaid, overrated position, particularly when filled by this female who was not a government good ole boy. How disappointed I was.

The good thing was that you jerked me back to reality and presented me with a challenge to prove to you and everyone that it would be taxpayer dollars well spent. Today I leave the Governor's Office quite comfortable, feeling that I served the Governor and the taxpayer to the very best of my ability. I was dedicated and true to the system every step of the way. I have no regrets, no embarrassments, and no ill will. The only regret I have is that I did not join the Governor's administration when first asked to do so.

Those words of yours still ring in my head, and I only hope that time has told you and others that taxpayers' dollars were not wasted. Only you know the reasons for the opinion you held or now still hold. Some day I hope those will be shared with me.

Sincerely,

Gerry Thompson
Executive Assistant to the Governor

GT:ss

UN-MAXIMS FOR GERRY THOMPSON
(for Agency Head Retreat, 4/23/83)

collected by D. C. Olson, esq. All Rights Relinquished.

1. He who is lost, hesitates.
2. Waste makes haste.
3. It's better to be sorry than SAIF.
4. Don't chew off more than you can bite.
5. Too much soup spoils the cook.
6. Don't book a cover by the judge.
7. Beware of gifts bearing Greeks.
8. Don't come under the cross until you bridge it.
9. New dogs can't teach you old tricks.
10. Don't horse around a gift mouth.
11. A boiling watch never pots.
- ~~12. Waste makes the fast go slow.~~
13. IT'S BETTER TO HAVE LOVED & LOST
14. A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE AIR
15. NEVER DO TODAY WHAT YOU CAN PUT OFF TOMORROW
16. HE WHO ~~HE WHO~~ IS LOST HESITATES
17. GOOD NEWS IS ~~AND~~ NEWS
18. LIKE A LOOSE DECK ON THE CANNON
19. DEEP WATER RUNS STILL ~~~~~ (IT REALLY DOES)