

1 February 2002

Center for Study of Public Choice
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George Mason University
4400 University Drive
Fairfax
Virginia 22030

Dear Friends:

I regret indeed that I will be unable to join you in celebrating Gordon Tullock's birthday. Since he and I share the same year of birth and we have been friends, colleagues, and associates in many common enterprises since the 1940s, I would have enjoyed especially recounting some of those adventures which we have shared. Needless to say, my now grown children who have married children of their own, remember occasions when Gordon joined our family on holiday occasions while he was on the faculty of this university more than four decades ago.

Faculty members who encountered Professor Tullock in the early 1960s on our campus found him always provocative, original, and an eager conversationalist. Gordon was far ahead of them in his early conversion to computers and their future. He was about the only member of the social sciences faculties who hot-footed it over to the engineering school to check out early versions of the electronic miracles which now are changing all aspects of our daily lives and academic disciplines.

Most interestingly, Gordon Tullock's intellectual meanderings knew no boundaries. Who else would have devoted extended attention to the political and organizational lives of ants? My own encounters with Gordon which ranged across the field of studies of China and East Asia were always stimulating. He was and remains a close friend.

Please convey to him my expressions of high regard. He'll understand that while you are celebrating his 80th birthday, I'll be across the Pacific on yet another adventure of my own.

Cordially,

Richard L. Walker
Ambassador-in-Residence