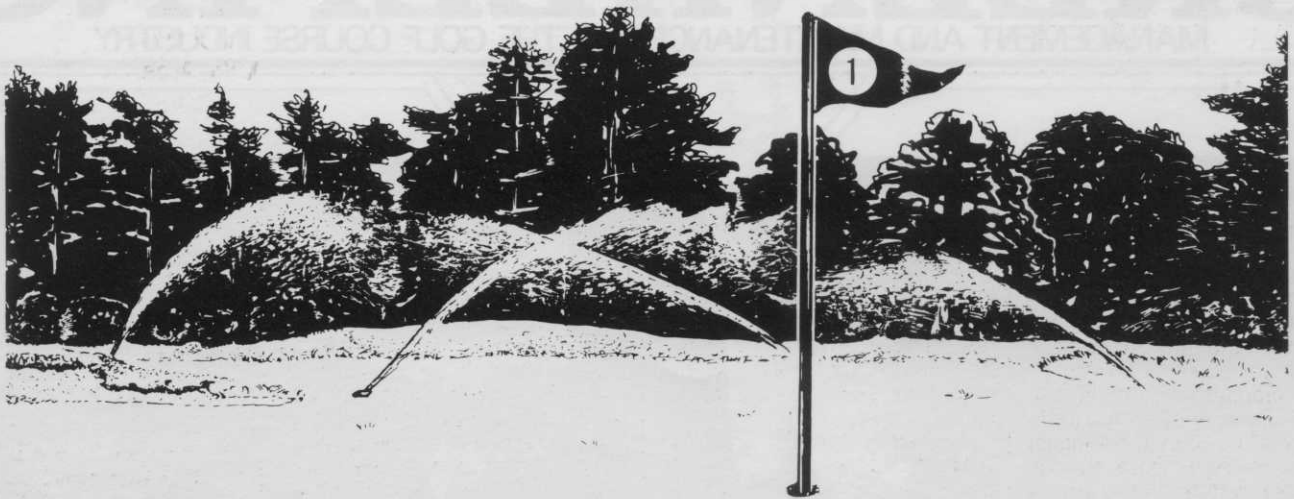


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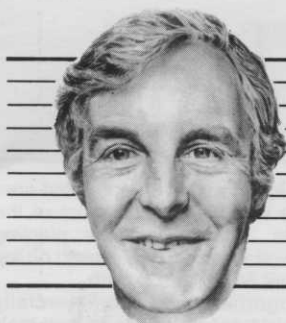
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John Lelean

NOT IN MY BACK YARD !

The NTC Conference at Stoneleigh last month, was not only one of the most informative gatherings held in this country on the development of amenity turf grass, but was marked by a forthright introduction by the Minister of State for Agriculture, the Rt. Hon. John Selwyn Gummer.

From the facts given in an unusually frank address to the delegates, followed by searching questions from the floor, there is little doubt the Government are facing the question of surplus rural land head on and their policy is likely to lead to a considerable degree of controversy, not only with the district planning authorities, but those who live in the countryside.

Over production of food in Britain can be attributed to three principal factors. The increased use of fertilisers, the more efficient mechanisation of larger farming units and by no means least a greatly improved management structure by our Agriculture Industry.

So what are we going to do with the poorer grades of agricultural land?

The Government are currently being pressed to re-develop the

inner cities for housing, but there should be a choice. Not everyone wants to live in an inner city, particularly if sensible development can take place in rural areas.

The Minister made it clear the policy is to encourage farmers to develop other businesses on their land with the emphasis on leisure. Included in this plan is an expansion of sporting activities covering a range of projects from pony trekking to golf courses, though Mr Gummer delivered a body blow to some, with ideas of carving out an eighteen hole course on a spare one hundred acres, by saying there would be no Government funding for golf courses, but they would consider grants for other recreational development.

Now comes the dilemma. The demand for golf has increased from 0.5% of the population in 1959 to 2.4% in 1984, but in this period only around 250 new courses have been constructed, less, those established courses sold off for housing development.

We need many more golf courses in Britain to satisfy demand, but the cost of laying

out a new course plus the provision of an appropriate clubhouse can run into a minimum of £1 million, even if the developer owns the land. It must also be taken into consideration there will be no return on the investment for at least two years, the minimum time necessary for it to mature.

The fact must be faced, despite the objections from the planners and rural residents, the way this can be achieved is to follow the American pattern of linking golf courses with high class housing development. Only in this way can sufficient funds be generated to provide an amenity for all.

The selfish attitude by some rural residents, invariably those who have moved in last, of pulling down the portcullis on their preserve and opposing change to their community in any way, must be overcome.

The days of the member owned club in Britain have ended. The existing ones will continue, but if we are going to provide an expansion of golfing facilities for the new generation, commercial enterprise is the only way forward.

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TERRALIFT THE TROUBLESHOOTER

The Terralift contracting service started by Colin Pryce Terralift at the beginning of 1987 is well into its second year of operation. The Terralift drives a 30" long hollow probe into the soil and releases a charge of compressed air at a pressure of 150-300 psi via three holes at the base of the probe. This release of air causes the soil to heave and fracture while

was found and in an untreated area there was dieback on most of the plants. The rest of the planting showed vigorous new growth on top of their first year's growth.

Together with commercially treated trees there are several trials around the country being monitored by different organisations including the Forestry Commission. Some



Play continues. The Terralift is shown treating a golf green whilst in play. Note lack of damage to the playing surface.

leaving the surface relatively unaffected. Powdery to granular materials may be distributed into the soil with each charge. Designed originally for tree root treatment its benefits in relieving compaction of the soil can be applied to other areas such as landscapes and sports turf. There now appears to be a definite trend in its use and troubleshooting is the best way to describe it.

Edenbridge Golf and Country Club was experiencing very poor drainage on two of their greens. The Terralift was called in to "open up" the clay subsoil with very good results.

"I consider the Terralift to be the most beneficial sub-soil drainage machine to be introduced into this country" stated the head greenkeeper.

Bedfordshire County Council had a problem on a landfill site near Shillington. A quarry filled with highway waste and capped using heavy machinery was planted with various tree species which subsequently suffered a near 100% death rate. The advice sought concluded that the failure was due to soil compaction. To rectify this a new problem arose; conventional subsoiling requires heavy machinery which would have been impractical in the small fenced areas and, more importantly, there was the threat of bringing to the surface the waste that had been so thoroughly buried. Again the Terralift was called in and treated the site in March 1987 prior to replanting. During this year's Spring follow up visit only one dead whip

treatments are already showing encouraging signs. There have been no adverse signs of root damage or, as the October hurricane proved, destabilisation of the trees.

The Terralift has been used to incorporate various products into the soil such as the water storing Polymer Broadleaf P4, slow release fertilizers including Floranid Tree, seaweed meal and Algisure. The Terralift is at present being evaluated in trials by a leading independent research establishment to control fairy rings by fungicide soil injections.

British Seed Houses Grass Seed at St. Mellion Golf & Country Club

All the grass seed used on the new Jack Nicklaus Golf Course which has been constructed over the past 3 years at the St. Mellion Golf & Country Club, Saltash, Cornwall was supplied by B.S.H. Ltd.

This superb course has been sown down with Penncross Creeping Bent on the greens and Penneagle Creeping Bent on the tees. The greens are in perfect condition for the official opening by Jack Nicklaus on Sunday, 10th July.

The fairways were all sown down with the British Seed Houses A12 Fairway Grass seed mixture which is based on their top rated Frida Chewings Fescue, which has been used on a number of major golf course projects in recent years.

NTC's Stirring Seminar

Seventy delegates representing both the farming community and the leading manufacturers in amenity turf grass equipment attended a one day seminar at the National Agriculture Centre last month entitled "The Recreational Diversification of Farmland."

The NTC has recognised that the way forward towards an increase in the acreage of amenity turf can only come from the release of surplus agricultural land and this aim coincides with the present policy of central government.

Thousands of acres of poor quality grazing and land producing a low yield of crops will have to be given a change of use if the thousands of smaller farms in Britain are to survive. One way, according to the Minister of State for Agriculture, the Rt. Hon. John Gummer, is for farmers to diversify into alternative business to supplement their income.

He told the NTC, "Farmers who have an unused barn or surplus land should think about setting up a sports complex. By providing space for pitches, indoor courts and swimming pools a farmer can not only increase his own income but also improve the quality of life for those living around him.

"Diversification is not just about establishing new types of businesses which are good for the farmer and his family. It can also be of direct benefit to those who live and work in the rural areas.

"I know that the Sports Council is concerned about the lack of suitable facilities in the countryside. We in MAFF have been working closely with them over the last year to explore ways in which we can co-operate in this area and have jointly commissioned research into the economies

of setting up and running sports enterprises on farms."

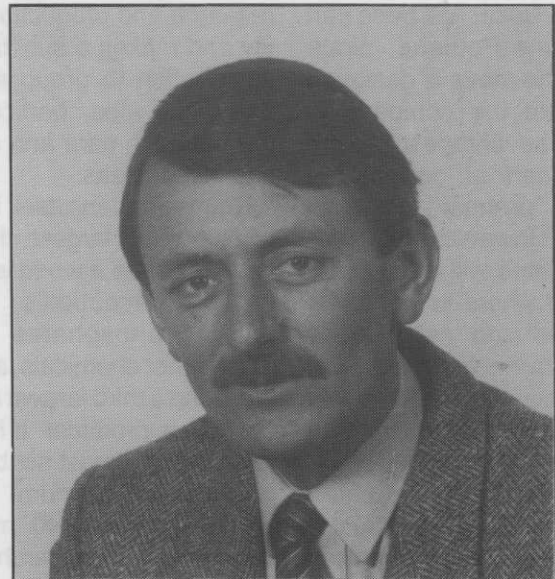
Mr Gummer went on to say how pleased he was by the enthusiastic response to the Farm Diversification Grant Scheme.

"We have now received well over 500 applications in England and some £500,000 has already been allocated to help farmers develop new businesses. Of course, diversification is not for everyone but for those farmers who are well placed to seize the opportunity it can mean making fuller use of land and buildings on farms and getting a better return for them."

In answer to a question from the floor, Mr Gummer said it had been decided to exclude grant aid for golf course developments, though when pressed conceded that the policy would be kept under review.

Other speakers at the Conference, ably and professionally chaired by Howard Swan, included Mike Collins, Planning Officer for the Sports Council, Sue Morris-Eyton from the NFU, Dr Peter Hayes, Director of the STRI, Jack McMillan, Course Manager at Sunningdale and golf course architect Simon Gidman, of Hawtree & Son.

Simon Gidman, costing the building of a new golf course, told the Conference anyone contemplating such a development would need to start with a minimum of 120 acres of suitable land, which if correctly planned would produce an eighteen hole course of



Howard Swan

around 6,000 yards.

By using local contractors and direct labour, greens, tees and fairways could be constructed for between £300,000 and £500,000. To that figure a further £50,000 can be added for an irrigation system, more if extensive drainage is necessary.

All this money has to be paid out before a penny can be recouped in green fees so there are the interest charges on the loans to take into account.

Do your market research first, advised Mr Gidman. Check on the waiting lists for membership in nearby golf clubs. Is there the demand to generate 40,000 rounds a year, which in round terms is 100 golfers a day, paying a green fee. This could be reduced if a membership club can be formed.

Dr Peter Hayes covering

the subject of construction and maintenance confirmed these figures from his own research, but in addition drew the delegates' attention to the equipment needed to keep the course in top condition.

Jack McMillan gave the Conference the practical problems of maintaining his two courses at Sunningdale. Controlling and maximising staff, keeping to a budget, fighting the elements and to some extent the golfers.

"There is nothing more offensive to a golfer than a piece of aeration equipment, yet nothing more essential", he added with feeling.

Editor's Note....

See Greenside Comment on page 3

News . . News . . News . . News .

NAME CHANGE FOR MAY & BAKER

May & Baker, one of Britain's foremost chemical companies, has changed its identity to that of its parent, the chemical multi-national Rhone-Poulenc.

May & Baker has been part of Rhone-Poulenc since 1927. The move is designed to enable the company to take full advantage of being a visible part of one of the world's premier chemical groups. However, the May & Baker name will continue to be used where its particular strengths and associations have a distinctive marketing role to play, most notably in the company's health care activities.

Dr Keith Humphreys, chairman and managing director of May & Baker emphasises the international dimension of the move.

"In the increasingly competitive world in which we operate, it is vital for us to be seen as part of a fully integrated international group in which we can make our size and strengths pay," he said.

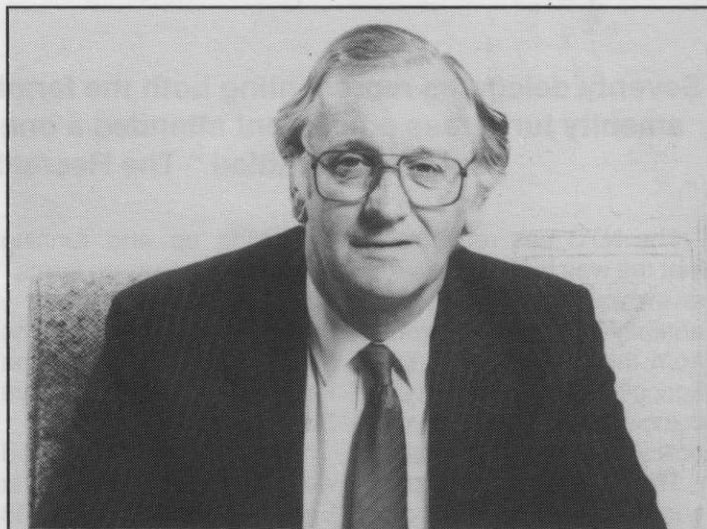
"The group is investing in the creation of a strong international identity and our own move enables us to capitalise

fully on that investment."

During its 60-year association with Rhone-Poulenc, May & Baker has already become a significant force within the group. It is a major research and production entity and makes a substantial contribution to group activities world-wide, particularly in the health care and agro-chemicals areas.

Rhone-Poulenc itself is the world's ninth largest chemical group. It is a world leader in pharmaceuticals, rare earths, phosphates and many other chemicals, and is the world's third largest agro-chemicals producer. It has a turnover of almost six billion pounds per annum. The group spends £340 million each year on research and development – a greater percentage of its turnover than some of its larger rivals – and spends a further £150 million on environmental protection.

"At present, Rhone-Poulenc trades under at least 40 different names in 140 countries worldwide, which puts the group at a disadvantage as far as other multinationals go," says Keith Humphreys. "Rhone-



Dr Keith Humphreys, Chairman and M.D. of May & Baker, now heads Rhone-Poulenc in Britain.

Poulenc is looking to move from being perceived as a French focused company to one with a true international dimension. Already more than 70 per cent of its sales turnover is outside France. Likewise, May & Baker has been seen in its turn as a UK company with overseas affiliates. This new move enables us to be seen for what we in effect already are – part of a truly international operation."

Divisions

From May 31, May & Baker Limited will trade as Rhone-Poulenc Limited, with three

divisions: Agriculture, Health Care and Chemicals. Within the divisions, those operations where the name of May & Baker is currently significant to their performance and market reputation, will retain this name as part of their trading identity – e.g. May & Baker Pharmaceuticals, May & Baker Garden Care and May & Baker Laboratory Products.

Overseas, the May & Baker subsidiary companies operating in the Commonwealth will change their name to Rhone-Poulenc.

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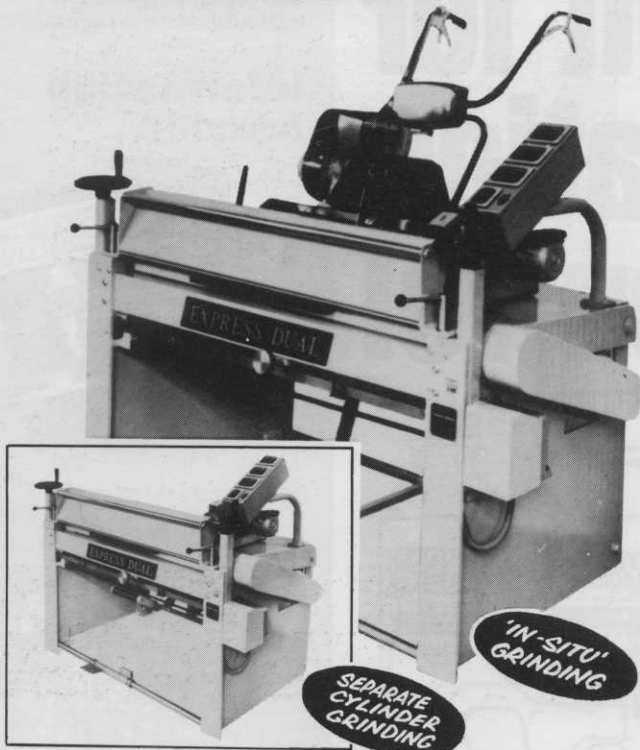


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News . . . News .

Trent-Jones designs Shanghai Golf Course

In what is believed to be the first three-way joint China-U.S.-Japan business venture, a championship 18-hole golf course and resort facility will be built in Shanghai. The deal is expected to enhance the friendly relations of these three leading nations in the Pan-Pacific area.

A joint agreement was signed May 12 in Shanghai by the representatives of Shanghai Sports Service Corporation, the Chinese construction company,

Aoki Corp. of Japan and Prescott Bush Resources Ltd. of the USA.

The golf course, the first to be built in Shanghai in modern times, will be designed by international golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr.

The investment for the resort and golf course is estimated to be \$18m US dollars. Project construction starts in September this year the course opening is scheduled for summer 1990.

Slow Release Nitrogen

The continuing controversy over slow release nitrogen fertilisers continues with a statement from Keith McKee, Fison Horticulture's Turf and Amenity Adviser.

Some suppliers are offering large discounts for IBDU based fertilisers which may not match up to the expected requirements.

Greenkeepers should ensure that the product offered, does what it claims to do and the contents of the bag completely meet the formula stated.

In the interests of fair commercial practice we published the Fisons statement in full.

'In considering the use of an IBDU based, slow release N, fine turf fertilizer, there are two factors which must be borne in mind. Firstly, the proportion of slow release to rapid release N source and, secondly, the actual quantity of the product the application rate will provide.

IBDU releases nitrogen slowly, over an extended period of time. If it is not present in sufficient volume when spread, its N release will be at too low a level to derive any visible, sustained response. In other words, your time and money will have been wasted.

Statements of IBDU percentage in fine turf fertilizers, whilst a valuable step towards fair trades description, must not in themselves be taken as a product endorsement. For example, fifty percent of *not very much* released over several weeks does not contribute any discernible improvement to a playing surface.

A hypothetical example of 8:0:0 formulation with 50% as IBDU, for instance, is definitely inadequate - providing only four units of slow release nitrogen over the long release period.

Our trials and experience show that a standard application of 35 g fertilizer per square yard, at least 10 units of IBDU are required in the product formulation to achieve truly extended turf growth and colour response. We have also found that the fraction needs to be complemented with an equal proportion of more rapidly released nitrogen to start the process close to the time of application.

This research went into the formulation of Fisons Greenmaster Super-N, a 24:0:0 + 2% Fe fine turf fertilizer of which 50% of the N is derived from IBDU'.

Golf Greenkeeping's Publishing Changes

Due to production difficulties, this issue of Golf Greenkeeping is a combined issue for the months of May and June.

Next month we will be issuing our usual combined July/August edition, followed by the September, IOG - Windsor Show Review.

Golf Greenkeeping will be maintaining its regular format of ten issues a year with a separate magazine for the month of December instead of combining with January 1989.

For those readers whose sub-

scription falls due at the end of this year an adjustment will be made to the renewal date.

To ensure you receive a regular copy of Golf Greenkeeping, the subscription is only £14.00 a year, postage paid to any address in the UK. Overseas rates on application.

Send cheque or postal order for £14.00, made out to Wharfedale Publications Ltd and send to - Subscriptions Dept. Golf Greenkeeping, PO. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorks.

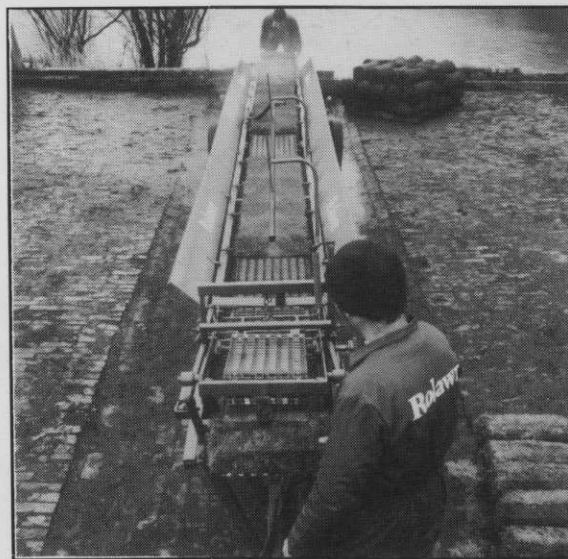
News . . News . . News . . News .

Real turf for QPR's high-tech pitch

In a first time operation, the turf that has been grown in Yorkshire for First Division Football Club, Queens Park Rangers' new pitch, was harvested early in the morning, given a unique washing treatment and transported overnight in a refrigerated lorry for immediate laying in London.

The natural turf has been grown and intensively main-

tained for fifteen months by Rolawn Turf Growers. Over 9,000 square yards was washed to remove soil so that it can be laid direct on an all-sand construction. Eve Leisure's Cellsystem incorporates an underground watering and drainage system that will ensure optimum playing conditions all the year round.



WASHED ROLAWN

Britain's first automatic turf washer uses water from the river to direct high pressure, high volume jets to remove soil from beneath the Rolawn turves.

Rolawn's own specially built 'washing machine' washed individual square yard rolls, handling over 1,000 square yards a day.

QPR's new pitch, costing

£250,000, has been spot-levelled by laser and replaces the previous synthetic surface, condemned by other football league clubs.

Fulford Golf Club gets the professionals' vote



In April, even after one of the wettest winters on record, members of Fulford Golf Club were able to enjoy excellent playing conditions. Meanwhile, more drainage work is under way to keep the course in the best possible condition.

The greens at Fulford Golf Club, near York, are the best of all the courses on the European circuit, according to a poll of the tournament players. The club itself gives much of the credit for the award to the continuous programme of drainage maintenance and renovation which it carries out.

Since 1971, Fulford has been the venue for the Benson and Hedges Championship, the longest running tournament at the same venue in Europe. Last year, asked to assess the courses on which the official European Tour events were held, the professionals gave Fulford's greens top marks in company which included such names as Muirfield, Wentworth and Royal Birkdale.

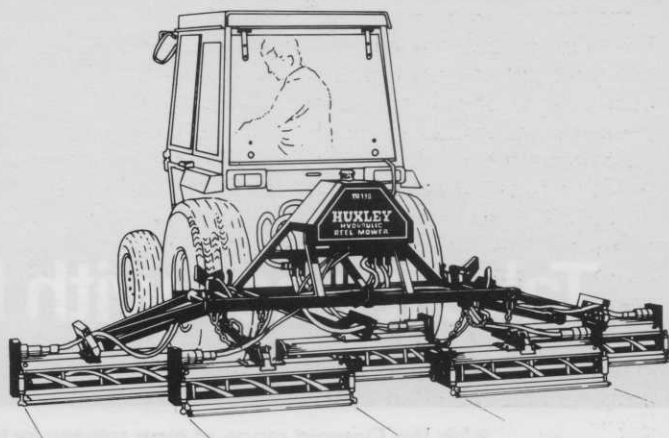
Fulford opened in 1935, was reclaimed from heathland and scrub. Clay tiles were mainly used for drainage, with ash as backfill, although in some places

ash was used on its own. In both cases, the drains were often only one foot deep. This system is constantly being renovated by the club, to maintain optimum playing conditions.

Like any golf club, Fulford has to have a drainage system which removes surface water as quickly as possible. To meet this need, the club now uses clay pipes from Henry Oakland of Escrick, at a depth of at least 2ft., back-filled with a minimum of 12in. of hard stone, and with falls wherever possible of around 1:20. Trenches are hand-dug by the greenkeeping staff. For laterals, 3in. pipes are used, feeding into 4in. or 6in. mains.

"We need a very free-draining system to get rid of surface water", explained John Gledhill. "Clay is a natural material—there is nothing like it for absorbing the water and drawing it out of the ground. Clay pipes do a good job for us".

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