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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

of

Governor Elmer L. Andersen

To The Legislature of Minnesota

Wednesday, January 4, 1961

St. Paul, Minnesota



INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR ELMER L. ANDERSEN

DELIVERED AT A JOINT SESSION OF THE

MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATURE

AT 12:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1961

Mr. Chief Justice; Mr. Speaker; Mr. President; Members of the 62nd Legislature; honored guests; friends and fellow citizens of the State of Minnesota:

I am deeply honored to become the 30th Governor of the State of Minnesota. I have taken the oath of office with deep respect for the responsibilities involved. May I congratulate you, as members of the 62nd Legislature, on your important role in government for the next two years. To the new members may I say that you are entering upon a wonderful educational experience as well as a great opportunity in public service. I have great respect for the legislative branch of government. I have an equal respect for the judicial and executive branches of government. I will respect the prerogatives of each.

You have the responsibility of formulating the policies of the government, of making the appropriations for state services and of levying the taxes to carry on the programs provided. As chief executive I have some share in the formulation of those policies, and the task of directing the administrative functions to implement the policies decided upon. Because of our joint responsibility the men who drafted our Constitution provided that "the Governor shall communicate by message to each session of the Legislature such information touching the state and condition of the country as he may deem expedient". We come together at a time of great opportunity and challenge.

I shall not attempt to discuss today all of the matters that may be occupying our interest during the months ahead. From time to time, by special messages, I will call to your attention matters affecting the welfare of the people that I believe are deserving of your particular attention.

May I say also that my approach will not be one of extreme partisanship. It never has been. It will be my purpose to work with both groups of both Houses, and with every individual legislator in achieving constructive legislation. The resources of all state departments will be at your

disposal to get dependable factual information and the best professional judgments available on any matters of concern to you.

We are all well aware of the position of world leadership in which our country finds itself. One of the ways in which we can support our country and its national leaders in international relationships is to operate state government in an enlightened, responsible and forward looking manner.

One of my first concerns is with the fiscal condition of our state government. Due to spending more than has been coming in, reserves have been consumed and deficits created. The income tax school fund will have a deficit of \$18,000,000 on June 30, and the general revenue fund a deficit of \$4,000,000. The condition of other funds is a matter of real concern. The budget message to be presented early in the session will provide an adequately financed program for the next two years. It will be necessary to treat with deficits and deficiencies in a special message.

In preparing the budget for the next biennium we have sought diligently to economize. We will be proposing the abolishment of one agency; the absorption of one by another. These will not mean large savings but are typical of what we will be working on intensively during the months and years ahead -- eliminating the obsolete and unnecessary so we can provide for the new and important and hold total state government costs within reasonable limits.

Currently Minnesota people are paying 25% above the U. S. average, per \$1000 of personal income, for state and local government. If Minnesota per capita income were 25% above the U. S. average this would not be such a problem, but when the fact is that Minnesota per capita income is below the national average, then the pinch on our people becomes more apparent.

I am convinced that our people want and are willing to support a strong elementary and secondary school system, they are proud of our great University, they realize the importance of the state colleges and junior colleges. Likewise we want an excellent mental health program, a forward looking correctional program, fine highways, humanitarian welfare programs and all the other essential services state and local government provide. However, it is essential that we have jobs and payrolls if we are to have the taxpayers and tax base to provide the revenue to support all this. It should be a matter of concern that in the 10 years, 1950 to 1960 we had a net out migration of 119,000 and many of these were young people finding it necessary to leave our state to find jobs. Our population increase has fallen behind the national average so we lose a congressman. Over 72,000 of our non-agricultural workers were unemployed in November.

It convinces me that we must give particular attention in this session to matters affecting the business and economic development of our state. Plentiful jobs at good pay are essential to the happiness and well being of our people, and certainly essential to the fiscal soundness of any governmental program.

It will be the purpose of this administration to give particular attention to the agricultural economy of our state, to emphasize greater research, marketing and promotion efforts, and accelerated business development to provide new outlets for crops, livestock, and poultry. Also we will suggest measures that the National Congress could pass that would be of great help to us. For example, we should urge the Congress to pass a national milk sanitation law so that any milk meeting Federal standards will enter all markets in the nation freely. We would also suggest that you urge Congress to repeal the rider in Public Law 480 which results in our farm producers subsidizing high cost shipping in transporting farm commodities to world markets.

The mineral resources of Minnesota, particularly iron, have provided employment for a large number of our families for many years, and have supplied large amounts of revenue to state and local government. As recently as 1953, Minnesota provided 62% of all the iron ore used in the United States. A dramatic change has taken place in this situation in the last seven years. In 1959 Minnesota produced but 39% of the iron ore used in the United States.

I would commend to you as one of the most serious problems needing your attention at this session, the subject of Minnesota's iron mining industry, and how to restore Minnesota's pre-eminence in ore production. Taxes play a key role in this picture. It seems to me we must face the reality that Minnesota can no longer look for the volume of revenue formerly provided by this industry when it was extracting a rich natural resource of which Minnesota had something approaching an international monopoly. In the years ahead, however, a revived mining industry, with particular emphasis on taconite production, can be a rich resource for job opportunities and be an important tax source for local and state government.

The forest products industry is another important factor in our economy needing attention. Although Minnesota ranks 8th or 9th in total timber area, it ranks only 20th in productivity from that timber area. We employ about 23,000 in our forest products industries. Other states with about the same or even less total timber area have three to four times as

many people employed in the processing of forest products on a sustained annual yield basis. We have millions of acres of undeveloped timber area but are reforesting currently at the rate of only 17,000 acres per year. A great many dedicated people in industry, the professions, and public service have worked very hard to restore Minnesota's forests. With all this effort, we are still very far from realizing the potential, and are far behind other states. If we act now with vision and purpose Minnesota could greatly bolster its future economy. My detailed recommendations will wait upon a forthcoming five interim commission report.

Other of Minnesota's great resources that make up an important part of our economy are the outdoor attractions that make Minnesota a recreational paradise. We need to upgrade the facilities at our state parks, and provide more public access to camping recreational areas. Our game and fish department must be practical and effective.

It seems to me we should invest substantially more in promoting Minnesota as a recreational haven. Minnesota ranks far down the list in amount of money spent to bring in tourists and we spend only a fraction of states near us with whom we compete for the tourists' dollar. We will be recommending some change in this situation and hope to have your co-operation. Every tourist visiting Minnesota improves the economic situation of every citizen of our state, directly or indirectly.

I have mentioned agriculture, mining, forestry, the tourist trade as important foundations of our state's economy. May I just refer to one more and that is general industry and manufacturing.

Minnesota's greatest resource is the quality, skill, and ingenuity of its people. Under the operation of the Selective Service Act, Minnesota had the lowest rejection rate in the entire country. As our young people reported for the draft, they were healthier, better educated, and better adjusted than the young people of any other state. This is but one evidence of the superiority we can claim for our people. It is not surprising then that firms that started in Minnesota many years ago have risen to pre-eminence in their field. In recent years some of these firms have felt it necessary to expand their operations in states other than Minnesota and we have lost many job opportunities as a result.

In one five year period, four large Minnesota firms increased employment in Minnesota by 3,000 jobs while increasing employment outside of Minnesota by over 13,000 jobs. If we cannot retain the growth and expansion of firms already here, how can we expect to bring in new?

Industry has become mobile. It goes where it is wanted. It goes where it can operate to competitive advantage. We must recognize that industrial competition is more severe today than ever in history. Time was when U. S. concerns competed with foreign concerns for foreign markets. Now U. S. concerns are competing with foreign manufacturers for our own market. Look about you and observe the products of foreign manufacture at every hand. We want to see the rest of the world develop economically and industrially. It is the best hope of future peace. If we are to share in this international development our firms must compete effectively and therefore they seek locations where tax climates, availability of workers and natural resources, closeness to markets, all provide the advantages they need. Here again, this legislature could render a very great service to the people of our state by recognizing the realities and expressing concern and taking steps to make Minnesota more attractive to manufacturing industry.

Taxation and tax reform is the most discussed subject relating to job building and business development. There is no question about its importance. After you have received the budget message and our recommendations relating to appropriations and revenues, I would like to follow with a detailed discussion of tax reform.

If we can aid our farmers in marketing the production of their efforts at better prices, if we can revitalize the mining industry, if we can come closer to realizing the potential of our forestry area, if we can more effectively bring thousands of tourists to our state to enjoy the beauty of our natural resources, if we can encourage more industry to expand and come to Minnesota, if our retailers, wholesalers and all other segments of our economy do well, we will have a flow of wealth into and around Minnesota that will make possible the standards of public service we all want to have and enjoy.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

An amendment to the constitution treating with reapportionment of the legislature was not approved by the voters in the 1960 election. It is my belief that it was objection to the wording and the procedure rather than the principle involved that led to this result. Submission of another amendment to achieve the same purpose is advisable. The matter of the limitation on the state debt in the state constitution has been of concern for a number of years. A recent decision of the Supreme Court made it very plain that there will be no further approval of certificates of indebtedness of the state until the constitution is changed. I would recommend this as an item of the greatest urgency. Likewise an amendment to the constitution would be in order to permit investment of trust funds to bring a greater yield while preserving every concern to protect the principle.

To further implement Constitutional Revision by the amendment process, I propose a commission of legislators and laymen to work on article revision and amendment preparation.

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

A study commission on ethics in government has been at work for four years and suggests that three bills be passed, one relating to conflict of interest, another to lobbyist registration, and a third to campaign expense reporting. I believe that all three bills are constructive in purpose, temperate in tone, and thus worthy of your consideration and support. A fourth suggestion relating to a commission on campaign practices will be implemented by me. No legislation is required.

REDISTRICTING

Redistricting of the state from nine congressional districts to eight will be one of your most difficult tasks. The last time it was necessary, following the 1930 census, the legislature and the Governor disagreed and the result was that all Congressmen ran at large. This was an unfortunate and confusing situation that we should not repeat. I shall work with you most co-operatively to find a fair and sensible solution.

METROPOLITAN PROBLEMS

One of the most dynamic developments of the last ten years has been the population concentration in the Twin City metropolitan area. Communities which were almost unknown ten years ago now rank among the top ten in our state. Now more than 40% of the total population of the state resides in the six county area. Many problems that cannot be handled on a purely local basis come with this development. Solutions require the attention of this state legislature.

It was a forward looking step when the Metropolitan Planning Commission was established by the 1957 session. I believe the time has come to extend the Twin City Sanitary District to include the entire metropolitan area, to change representation on the board to reflect the geographical change, and to provide it with the means of carrying out this important public health service function.

I believe we need to coordinate the different water studies that have been made in the metropolitan area and my suggestion would be that the Metropolitan Planning Commission extend its work in this area with the help of special appropriation, if necessary, to develop a recommendation for long range plans for the water needs of the region.

A mass transportation study for the metropolitan area is also urgently needed. This should include the means by which public transportation might best be extended to all parts of the metropolitan area, and whether a metropolitan transit authority should be established. Another subject requiring more study and attention is air pollution.

Adequate regulation of public utilities in the metropolitan area should be reviewed to determine whether greater authority should be vested in the Railroad and Warehouse Commission, or a new agency that would have the metropolitan area as its special concern, which could use the technical staff in the Railroad and Warehouse Commission, be established. Proposals of contractual relationships between public utilities and communities served will also come before you. In this field, as in so many, we must strive for the minimum amount of regulation and administrative cost that will adequately protect the public interest.

One of the greatest contributions to local government that you could make would be to pass an enabling act or direct imposition tax measure, equitable in application, to implement local revenue needs and ease the property tax burden.

The legislature adopted and the people accepted a constitutional amendment providing for greater local responsibility in government through home rule charters. The League of Minnesota Municipalities is proposing legislation to implement the constitutional amendment. I would urge your careful and favorable consideration of this proposal. The philosophy of this administration favors strong and adequate local government with maximum home rule, and majority vote prevailing.

May I suggest for your consideration at this legislative session or in organizing the next legislative session that each body consider providing for a committee on metropolitan affairs? This would bring together not only legislative representatives of the central cities but of the suburban area as well, it would reflect in the legislature the unity of purpose intended for the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Where there are many governmental units involved, it is easy for competition and conflict to arise. The public interest is best served by treating with problems on the basis of the entire population. Yet in treating with the overall population, my feeling is that it should be on a planning and service basis, retaining autonomy with local units of government. A committee on metropolitan

problems in each body of this legislature would foster unity of purpose and understanding of common problems and constructive overall solutions rather than individual disparate action.

EDUCATION

From its earliest days Minnesota has placed great emphasis on the importance of a strong system of public education. Our people have always been willing to support adequate and even generous provisions for our educational program.

The 1957 foundation aid plan is excellent. Each legislature must review the formula provisions to adjust to changing conditions. Our recommendations will be in the budget message.

Likewise, the 1957 legislative program for exceptional children is a model for other states. It has brought new opportunity to thousands of young people, and I know will have your continuing support. Remedial reading teachers should be added to the coverage, and expanded opportunity provided for gifted children.

The vocational rehabilitation section of the Department of Education is a most important phase of our state government and should have financial support adequate to its needs.

School enrollments will continue to grow. It is important that we take such measures as will recruit and retain able teachers and provide adequate facilities. We must recognize the importance of our State Department of Education and provide adequacy of personnel and salaries so it may continue to provide effective leadership and guidance.

The University of Minnesota, with the cooperation of the Minnesota legislature and the support of all the people of our state has grown to be an institution of great distinction and strength. The state colleges of Minnesota are experiencing a tremendous growth in enrollment. The junior colleges of our state are maturing to a more significant role in the overall higher education program for our people. We need a long range plan for higher education. I would urge the continuation of the liaison committee and an appropriation to implement its study.

I have been impressed with the lower percentage of high school graduates going on to college from the western parts of our state as compared with the percentage of high school graduates going on to college from the urban centers in the eastern part of our state. I think it is clear

that additional college facilities have been needed in those western areas of the state and I believe specifically that additional college facilities are needed in southwestern Minnesota.

In the overall educational institutions available to the young people of Minnesota we should not overlook the splendid work carried on by the private schools and colleges. Without their great work the public education job would be infinitely greater.

As a legislator and as a private citizen I have been an exponent of scholarships. We cannot afford to have a single individual fall short of developing his ability to its full potential. I believe that education can be supported by a student working, by help from his parents, by borrowing money. I also know, however, that having exhausted all of these potentials many young people fail to get to college because of financial problems. You will receive scholarship proposals and I would urge that you give them favorable consideration having in mind that safeguards can be written into the law that will require full individual effort and will in no way weaken private initiative and self reliance. Frequently, the addition of even a small grant can make the difference between getting to college or not. The nurses scholarship now in effect, has brought nurses training to many fine young women who otherwise would not have received it, has provided the people of Minnesota with nursing care, as a result, that otherwise would not have been available. A study of the records would indicate that very few of the grants are the full amount provided by law. Many of them are of very small amounts representing the difference needed after full utilization of family resources, borrowing capacity and individual earnings.

It will be difficult, but let us keep Minnesota's educational program moving forward and meeting the needs of all of our young people, by adequate financial support, and sound statutory provisions, so the finest of teachers may be attracted to schools carrying on effective programs.

CONSERVATION

In the field of conservation I will develop a program for the future in cooperation with the new Commissioner of Conservation. As one fundamental item, I plan to revive the land utilization committee provided for in a law passed a generation ago, but not used recently. I believe it is time to take an inventory of our land resources and see to what use they may best be put. As we study that law there may be some changes we may wish to suggest during the course of the legislative session.

Likewise we plan to suggest to the new Commissioner that he establish an advisory committee.

We have already indicated our desire to see an expanded forestry program, including utilization research.

In the field of lands and minerals, I have been surprised to learn that many parts of northern Minnesota are without geological survey maps of any kind, and very little of the area has been adequately mapped. The topographic mapping program started in 1949 has progressed very well and is worthy of your continued support. Good maps are fundamental. I would recommend that the state enter into a cooperative program with the U. S. Geological Survey, similar to that in effect on topographic mapping, to produce geologic survey maps.

Abundant as water may seem to be in Minnesota, it is becoming increasingly apparent that water shortages may be a real problem in parts of Minnesota in the future. We need to know more about our water resources, and we need to preserve from pollution and waste the resources that we have.

In game and fish activities we need to combine scientific knowledge and methods with the practicalities of outdoor life to achieve the maximum benefit for our people and those who visit our state. Increasing population puts a greater pressure on game and fish supply. Continued acquisition of wet lands is important. It is our plan to review the operations of the department to reduce administrative personnel to a minimum so maximum funds may be available for field projects.

We must make the necessary investment to increase total available park facilities. I would like to put special emphasis on the opportunity now afforded to add a new state park of outstanding appeal located in the heart of the Twin City area. It is almost incredible that such a possibility could still exist. Some 330 acres making up the Fort Snelling reservation have been declared surplus property by the Federal government and can be acquired through your action. Below Fort Snelling along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers lie other tracts of land which, if put together, could make a state park of more than 3,000 acres, notable for natural beauty, rich in historical lore, easily accessible by private and public transportation. I do hope that everything will be done to implement the formation of what well may be known as Fort Snelling State Park.

We need to upgrade the facilities at our other state parks as recommended by the Buildings Interim Commission, and to provide more public access to recreational areas.

HIGHWAYS

The advent of the freeway program has resulted in a greater in our Highway Department than in any other. There has not been time since election to make the kind of personal study of this department that we wish to make in order to make comprehensive plans for the future that we believe are necessary.

Nearly 7,000 miles of Minnesota's 11,800 miles of trunk highways are still restricted to 4, 5, 6 and 7-ton load limits during the spring break-up. Yet, these roads are becoming more and more important in so many ways: carrying livestock and dairy products, encouraging the decentralization of industry and industrial development in smaller communities, serving agriculture and local industry, providing public and private transportation, and replacing discontinued rail service. These -- and other requirements -- provide sound reason for moving toward the day when Minnesota will have an unrestricted, all-weather road system. Similarly, a higher standard of highway construction must result from increased traffic; and, more divided 4-lane highways should provide safer driving. Consistent activity will be needed for years to come, to provide highways which will keep pace with increasing needs.

Our objective is to obtain for the State of Minnesota the finest, most efficient low cost transportation system to serve the needs of our commerce, industry and agriculture, thereby protecting and promoting the economic well-being of our communities and to assure continued improvement in our standards of living and to properly provide for our national defense. This program will be developed with concern for all our people and equitable consideration of all parts of the state.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In 1960 more than 700 people lost their lives in highway accidents in our state. A new alltime record was set. It is a shocking reminder of the extent to which our highways have become scenes of slaughter. The automobile, in its comparatively brief lifetime, has destroyed more Americans than all the wars we have fought since Lexington and Concord. Last year the national toll was 38,000 lives. Excessive speed and drunken driving together account for more than two-thirds of the fatalities. Surely we can look to everyone to cooperate in an effective education, engineering and enforcement program which aims point blank at reducing highway accidents, deaths and injuries.

It will be my purpose to establish a Governor's Co-ordinating Committee on Traffic Safety which will consist of the heads of all officials

state agencies having direct responsibilities for the safe and efficient flow of traffic, including official agencies outside the function of the Department of Highways. This will provide for effective inter-departmental coordination, reinforcement of departmental programs and policy actions, and aid in the resolving of inter-departmental problems. I plan to ask the Minnesota Safety Council to strengthen the citizen function of the council and expand its public support program.

I would urge legislation providing for testing all of applicants applying for a renewal of their driving license. Corrective legislation recommended by the Highway Department is a realistic but minimal approach and should be considered for priority action. It is reported that 10% of all accidents are due to failure of the vehicle. Periodic motor vehicle inspection would greatly reduce or eliminate such accidents. Minnesota needs a motor vehicle inspection law. Courses in driver education should be offered in all Minnesota high schools and these courses should include behind-the-wheel instruction, and wherever possible be available to adults.

Positive lock doors, dashboard padding, seat belts and other safety devices should be examined and required if claims made for them are justified.

Few factors are as important to traffic safety as a vigorous and well-trained enforcement agency. The personnel assigned to traffic accident prevention and enforcement should be increased in numbers and ability to achieve this end.

I would support adoption of the implied consent law under which a suspected drunken driver, upon pain of loss of license, must undergo a chemical test to determine the amount of alcohol in his blood stream. I would recommend review of all traffic violation penalties.

Elimination of traffic accidents depends largely on the personal and social responsibility the individual driver is willing to assume. We will put emphasis on the constructive approach of prevention and education doing all that we can through the administrative branch of government to improve driving habits, to develop public awareness of safety precautions, and to develop public pride in a strong enforcement program.

WELFARE

Those who worked with me when I served as chairman of the Senate Welfare Committee know that this area of state government will not be overlooked by this administration. I believe that more personnel is needed in our mental hospital program, not only to staff new facilities that

will come into use in the coming biennium but to improve patient care in present facilities and to ease the burden on present employees who are being required to serve far more patients than they adequately can.

All of the evidence indicates that short time intensive care is more productive of results and far more economical than long term custodial care. It would greatly help hospital superintendents if they could have greater flexibility in using salary money than they now have.

I believe our overall mental health program would be advanced by establishing a separate Department of Mental Health with a commissioner of mental health in charge. We should work for the accreditation of our state hospitals so they can be used for training as well as patient care. We must set up a more satisfactory training program for mental health personnel. A first step would be to provide for a Director of Training and Research.

I believe superintendents should be relieved of more of the administrative detail than is now possible. Emphasis, of course, should be on patient care, and an attitude of the warmest sympathetic understanding of the special difficulties relating to mental illness and the particular consideration required by families of patients. We plan to be meeting regularly with the Commissioner of Welfare and our mental hospital people in developing administrative improvements as well as legislative suggestions.

In the field of the categorical aids, we would recommend removing the maximum now applying on old aged assistance, and on aid to the disabled. Presently, average grants are less than the maximum and yet those few cases needing more than the maximum cannot receive it. The maximum operates to offend some people who feel it is the amount that everyone is intended to receive. Removing the maximum would apply to old age assistance and aid to the disabled, the principle already applying to other categorical aids, namely, the grant should be based on need.

In recent weeks I have had an opportunity to visit the Glen Lake Sanitarium in Hennepin County. It has a capacity for some 700 patients and had set a record as one of the top TB sanitariums in the country. There are now about 140 patients being treated and prospect for this declining to 100. A number of buildings are now unoccupied and serving no useful purpose. It is my understanding that the county of Hennepin is willing to make this entire facility available to the state of Minnesota without charge or rent to be used by the state of Minnesota indefinitely. There are differences of opinion as to how this facility might best be used and some concern about a high cost of operating it. It would seem to me, and I believe to you if you were to visit it, that we should be able to find some

way of putting this marvelous facility to some constructive purpose for the benefit of our people.

In welfare and in a number of other fields Congressional action may affect your legislative decisions. I would recommend that we not qualify under the second part of the new medical care program until it is clear whether or not substantial changes will be made, by Congress.

The Governor's Conference on Aging has been at work for many months and the White House Conference meets in a few days. From these comprehensive studies will come recommendations worthy of your study for they treat with a subject that commands everyone's sympathetic concern. Some property tax relief through exemptions extending the homestead principle to people over 65 would be one of the most considerate things you could do at this session. By administrative leadership we hope to extend age of retirement in private employment so people desiring and able to do so could continue working. I am sure that our older people are happier and healthier when they feel needed to do useful work. County programs of leisure time activity have made fine progress.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The adequacy of existing laws regarding supervision of charitable funds solicited from the public was put in issue in 1960 by two disclosures of serious mismanagement. A citizens committee appointed by the Attorney General and broadly representing the charitable organizations operating in this state investigated the problem and unanimously recommended the adoption of a new bill. That bill would require charities soliciting in Minnesota to file accounts with the Attorney General, making a full disclosure of their whole operation available for public inspection. Religious organizations and certain others would be exempted from compliance. The committee believes that by enforcing such full disclosure to the public the possibility of future mismanagement will be lessened and the public will be furnished with accurate information upon which to base their decisions to donate. I recommend this measure to you.

BUILDING COMMISSION REPORT

The Legislative Building Commission has already made public its recommendations for a building program in the next biennium. I endorse and support their report and commend the members for the great contribution of time and study that they have made in preparing it. I would request that one addition be considered, and that would be a modest appropriation

to acquire a site and develop plans for an institution for the mentally retarded to be located on the Iron Range.

I believe the building interim commission has found an acceptable total investment in new construction to recommend. I am sure it will have your careful consideration.

INCREASE IN CRIMINAL OFFENSES

A study of the crime rate in Minnesota, recently concluded by our Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, should be a matter of concern to all of us. Since 1950 the total number of major offenses has grown from 19,500 to 46,800. The total number of crimes solved has grown very substantially, but the percentage of the offenses solved has gone down from 33% to less than 25%. While our population increased by 14% in this ten-year period, the incidence of major crime has increased by 140%, and 80% went unsolved. The age of persons arrested for major offenses has dropped since 1940. Of all those arrested in 1959 for major offenses, more than two thirds were under 18 years of age and more persons were arrested at age 16, than any other age. Mind you, this is for major crime.

This is a shocking situation. I believe people charged with law enforcement responsibility need more personnel and equipment to do the job. After further study and counseling I expect to have recommendations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human relations today and especially the relationships between the racial and religious minority groups within our state, should have our continuing attention. Good human relationships are essentially matters of conscience, understanding and education but in the prevention of injustice, legislation is necessary.

There is need to increase and strengthen the body of law and procedure in our state in order to protect the rights of our citizens in such matters as housing, public accommodations, employment, and education. In the field of housing, I recommend and urge the adoption of legislative prohibitions as extensive as may be required to insure fair housing opportunity to all citizens regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

We recognize the value of migrant workers in filling the needs of productive labor to meet seasonal demands. We must make sure that these workers and their families are welcomed with dignity and respect in our

state and are assured the same opportunities for employment, education, recreation, health and welfare services as the people of our state now enjoy.

The situation facing our Indian citizens is of major concern. Much research and study has been given to this area by our Legislative Interim Commission on Indian Affairs and by our Human Rights Commission which has proposed a plan for the improvement of the well being of Minnesota Indians in the five-year period ahead. I recommend your earnest consideration of this and other proposals.

The safeguarding of the civil rights of all of our citizens, granting to each equal dignity, and freedom of opportunity is of the greatest importance -- not only at home -- it tells all the world where we truly stand.

STATE EMPLOYEES

Government in Minnesota will be only as good as the people who are a part of that government. We will seek in our administration to attract and hold the best qualified people for all possible positions. I believe that the people of Minnesota have a burning desire to respect the men and women who are serving them in positions of trust in government. It is our aim throughout the administration to be worthy of that respect and trust.

In the several years since a general adjustment in salaries of department heads was made Civil Service pay has advanced so that in many cases key people now are being paid less than their subordinates. We will suggest a remedy.

Civil Service pay scales and rate ranges have been carefully reviewed and we will include recommendation in the budget message.

It is my plan to get personally acquainted with the work of as many state employees as possible. We are going to scrutinize operations very carefully. We believe in fewer and better paid employees rather than the opposite. I would like to see public employees get more excited about the work they do, and the public get a better understanding of the work of public employees. I believe it would help morale on both sides.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Compensation laws must always be surveyed by each session of the legislature and kept up

with the changing wage pattern of the state. Four years have gone by since workmen compensation benefit increases were provided. Wages have increased in each of those years. Benefits to injured workmen should likewise be increased by the legislature. Benefits to the widows of workmen killed at their work should be increased from the present maximum of \$17,500. The law should be made clear that in all cases of injury sustained as a result of exposure to nuclear or atomic rays the statute of limitations does not begin to run until a reasonable time after discovery of the workman's condition.

Unemployment compensation benefits are no longer adequate in Minnesota, particularly as to the unemployed person who has a family dependent upon him. The fund is also in trouble. For over six years our law has not provided for income to the reserve fund equal to the withdrawals made from the fund. The reserve has decreased from \$134,000,000 on December 31, 1953 to approximately \$63,500,000 on December 31, 1960. This puts it definitely below an adequate reserve. It is important to both employees and employers that an adequate fund be maintained, and to do so means rate adjustments at this session. Abuses which creep in should be eliminated.

Measures that will encourage the hiring of older workers or handicapped workers should be encouraged. Accident prevention programs should be strong as should our vocational rehabilitation program. I have always felt that rehabilitation is a constructive use of public funds, and that we should do all we can to eliminate chronic dependency.

PUBLIC SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

In civil defense, in mental hospitals, on fair boards, in many other state, local government, and private and public community organizations much of the work is carried on by volunteers. Their contribution of time and resources is not only a wonderful expression of American idealism, but a very great economic help. I salute them and hail their work.

SCIENCE, MUSIC, AND THE ARTS

The quest for knowledge and interest in the fine arts are always symbols of a good society. It is my hope that Minnesota's notable record will be enhanced under this administration.

I hope that private interests will launch an Upper Midwest Research Institute.

We look forward to the establishment of a new repertory theater.

I hope a new St. Paul Science and Arts Center can soon be constructed.

We will welcome opportunities to advance interest and participation in music, literature, art, and preservation of our historical and cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION

You have been very patient as I have reviewed a number of fields needing your attention in the session now opening. It would take a good deal longer to outline our many strengths, our great advantages, the fine opportunities that are ours, the blessings we all enjoy. Against that background we should not be the least bit discouraged about the problems that look to us for solution. We should not be surprised if there are differences of opinion as to how we should go about the job ahead of us. The art of legislation is not in avoiding differences but in reconciling them. A wise newsman once made the observation, "the legislative process was not intended to be easy". I am thankful for the legislative experience that I have had for it will give me a genuine and sympathetic understanding of the problems that you will face in the months ahead. In any way at all that I can be of assistance to any one of you, personally or in any other way, I am at your service. I hope you will visit with me frequently. I earnestly desire to work with you in a spirit of good will.

If Minnesota is to progress in the manner which we all want it to, we must disenthral ourselves from the prejudices of the past. If we retain concepts a couple generations old that are no longer true or applicable we will be obviously handicapped. We live in a new world of scientific discovery of new human relationships, of vast economic development and greater governmental responsibility. It is an enormously exciting world-- it has great potential for every living soul, if we but have the vision and purpose to make common sense and good will prevail.

I could mean no concluding words more sincerely than those Alexander Ramsey used when he concluded the first inaugural address before the first Territorial Assembly on September 4, of 1849. Here is what he said:

"In coming among you to assume the position I hold, I trust to be believed when I say, that I brought with me only the sincere determination to do right, to do justice, to live in harmony with all, and to use whatever power I incidentally possess, entirely for the true and abiding weal of Minnesota. And may that God who rules the destiny of nations, so prosper your doings and mine that we will all bear with us the conviction that each performed his whole duty, for the people's true happiness, and the enduring glory of the American name."