
STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Tommy G. Thompson

January 31, 1991

MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT ... LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR McCALLUM
... SECRETARY OF STATE LaFOLLETE, ATTORNEY GENERAL DOYLE,
TREASURER ZUESKE, SUPERINTENDENT GROVER ... PRESIDENT RISSER ...
SPEAKER KUNICKI ... TRIBAL CHAIRMEN ... CABINET MEMBERS ...
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

... AND MY FELLOW WISCONSINITES,

THIS MONTH SEES THE BEGINNING OF A NEW TERM FOR THE THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATION, AND A NEW YEAR ON THE SHORT ROAD TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

IN WISCONSIN, THIS IS A TIME OF GREAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE ... BUT ALSO
GREAT CONCERN FOR THE PRESENT.

FOR THE PRESENT, THERE IS A DEEP CONCERN FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN
THE GULF AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AT HOME.

TO THOSE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OUR STATE WHO ARE STANDING UP TO
TYRANNY ABROAD, WE WISH A SAFE AND SPEEDY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES
AND THEIR FAMILIES ... AND TO A WISCONSIN THAT WILL ALWAYS BE
THEIRS.

AND WHILE THESE BRAVE TROOPS ARE ANSWERING THIS CALL, WE WILL
NOT ASK STILL MORE OF THEM. FIRST, AS I HAVE ANNOUNCED, MILITARY
PAY FOR THE TROOPS WILL BE EXEMPT FROM WISCONSIN STATE TAXES.

FOR STATE EMPLOYEES CALLED TO DUTY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PAY
THEIR REGULAR SALARY FOR TWO MONTHS ... AND WILL EXTEND HEALTH
BENEFITS TO THEIR FAMILIES FOR A YEAR.

THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE COMBAT ZONE SHOULD NOT HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES LOSING HEALTH BENEFITS.

THESE STEPS WE ARE TAKING ARE BUT A SMALL RETURN FOR THE RISKS
AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THESE WISCONSINITES ARE TAKING IN
DEFENDING THE IDEALS OF THIS STATE AND NATION.

WISCONSIN HAS SENT ALMOST 4,000 GUARD MEMBERS AND RESERVES TO THE GULF.

REPRESENTING THEM ALL AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE A HUSBAND AND TWO CHILDREN OF ONE OF THOSE WISCONSINITES, KRISTINE SCHULTZ, A NURSE WITH THE 13th EVACUATION HOSPITAL. YOUNG JENNIFER AND JASON HAVE HAD THE WAR COME HOME TO THEM IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY, AND WE WANT THEM TO KNOW WE WISH THE SAFE AND SPEEDY RETURN OF THEIR MOTHER.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING MIKE, JENNIFER AND JASON SCHULTZ.

INDEED, THE WAR HAS REACHED DIRECTLY INTO THIS CHAMBER ... CALLING REPRESENTATIVE STEVE NASS TO THE FRONT ... AND FOR NOW HIS SEAT IS EMPTY, A REMINDER OF HIS COURAGE AND PATRIOTISM.

STEVE'S PARENTS -- JOYCE AND WILFRED -- ARE ALSO WITH US TODAY.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN EXTENDING TO MR. AND MRS. NASS OUR WISH TO SEE STEVE BACK IN THIS CHAMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MEDINGER AND HIS WIFE DEE, HAVE ALSO BEEN TOUCHED BY THE WAR. DEE'S SON, CHRISTOPHER BAUMGARTNER, IS SERVING WITH THE 82nd AIRBORNE, STANDING UP FOR THE VALUES AND THE INTERESTS OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

JOHN AND DEE ... I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE STAND WITH YOU.

CHRISTOPHER IS TRULY DOING THE "HARD WORK OF FREEDOM" THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED UPON US TO DO AND WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF HIM.

AND WE ARE ALSO VERY PROUD OF THE CHILDREN OF REPRESENTATIVE DuWAYNE JOHNSRUD AND HIS WIFE, JACKIE, WHO HAVE BOTH A SON AND A DAUGHTER IN THE WAR ZONE ... AND I WOULD LIKE US ALL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE JOHNSRUDS.

THEIR DAUGHTER JENNIFER IS A LIEUTENANT IN THE 101st AIRBORNE, AND THEIR SON JARETT IS WITH THE 229TH COMBAT ENGINEERS. BUT IN OUR HEARTS, THEY ARE WITH US TODAY. FOR IF WAR TOUCHES ONE OF US, IT SURELY TOUCHES US ALL.

JASON AND JENNIFER'S MOTHER ... THE NASS' SON ... THE MEDINGERS' SON ...

THE JOHNSRUDS' CHILDREN ... MY OWN RELATIVE, CAPTAIN KERMIT HUB,
WHO IS COMMANDING A TANK COMPANY AT THE FRONT ...

THESE AND ALL THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES OF
FREEDOM HAVE OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR PRAYERS ... AND OUR GREAT
ADMIRATION FOR THEIR COURAGE ... THEIR PATRIOTISM ... THEIR
COMMITMENT ... AND THEIR UNSHAKABLE RESOLVE TO DEFEAT A
RUTHLESS AND DESPERATE TYRANT ... AND TO BRING A JUST AND LASTING
PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

AT HOME, I CALL UPON WISCONSIN TO SHOW THE SAME SPIRIT IN MEETING
THE CHALLENGES AHEAD OF US.

WE MUST SHOW COURAGE IN FACING ECONOMIC HURDLES ...

... COMMITMENT TO EXTENDING THE PROSPERITY OF OUR STATE INTO ITS
MOST TROUBLED AREAS ...

... AND A FIRM RESOLVE TO BUILD A FUTURE WISCONSIN THAT IS EVEN
GREATER THAN THE WISCONSIN WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER IN THE LAST
FOUR YEARS.

the wisconsin model
of government

YOU KNOW, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A GOVERNOR TO TALK ABOUT HIS OWN
STATE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ... BUT HOW OFTEN DO WE SEE A GOVERNOR
TOUTING HIS NEIGHBOR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

SINCE HIS ELECTION, GOV. ARNE CARLSON -- OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE WEST --
HAS FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO "THE WISCONSIN MODEL OF
GOVERNMENT" AS AN EXAMPLE FOR MINNESOTA TO FOLLOW.

IN HIS STATE OF THE STATE THIS WEEK, GOVERNOR CARLSON SAID, "IF WE
CAN BEAT WISCONSIN IN BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, AND HOCKEY, WE CAN
BEAT THEM IN JOB CREATION."

WELL, ARNE, I KNOW YOU'RE NEW TO THE JOB ... BUT YOU SHOULD GET ONE
THING CLEAR RIGHT NOW.

NOT ONLY WILL WISCONSIN CONTINUE TO BEAT MINNESOTA IN JOB

CREATION ... BUT WE DID BEAT YOU IN BASKETBALL ... AND WE WILL BEAT YOU IN FOOTBALL NEXT YEAR ... AND WE ARE STILL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN HOCKEY.

SERIOUSLY, THE QUESTION IS BEING ASKED IN OTHER STATE CAPITALS: "WHY CAN'T WE DO WHAT WISCONSIN IS DOING?"

FOR WISCONSIN STANDS APART IN THE SOLID STRENGTH OF ITS INSTITUTIONS ... GOVERNMENT ... FINANCE ... AND INDUSTRY.

-- LAST YEAR, FINANCIAL WORLD MAGAZINE RANKED WISCONSIN AMONG THE BEST STATES FOR FISCAL MANAGEMENT ... AND TODAY, WISCONSIN AND ONLY TWO OTHER STATES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI CAN REPORT THAT THE BOOKS ARE BALANCED AND THERE IS MONEY IN THE BANK.

-- AND UNLIKE SOME OTHER STATES, OUR BANKS ARE SOUND. IN WISCONSIN, NOT ONE BANK ... NOT ONE SAVINGS AND LOAN ... NOT ONE CREDIT UNION IS IN TROUBLE ... WHILE THROUGHOUT THE NATION OTHER STATES HAVE SEEN "BANK HOLIDAYS," S&L FAILURES, AND CREDIT UNION CLOSURES.

GROWTH OF ASSETS AND LOAN RESERVES IN OUR BANKS ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH.

OUR SAVINGS AND LOANS ARE AMONG THE STRONGEST AND MOST PROFITABLE IN THE NATION.

AND WISCONSIN CREDIT UNIONS ARE CONSISTENTLY CITED BY OTHER STATES AS MODELS FOR EXCELLENCE.

OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE THRIVING BECAUSE THEY HAVE REJECTED "GET-RICH-QUICK" SCHEMES AND INSTEAD HAVE INVESTED IN WISCONSIN'S HOMES, FARMS, AND BUSINESSES.

-- THESE INVESTMENTS FUEL THE INDUSTRY OF WISCONSIN, BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR THAT KEEPS THE MACHINERY HUMMING SO SMOOTHLY.

IN WISCONSIN, BUSINESS AND LABOR WORK TOGETHER. AND JUST LAST MONTH, THE MANAGEMENT AND UNION OF BRIGGS AND STRATTON WERE ABLE TO AVERT THE LOSS OF 1200 JOBS FROM MILWAUKEE BY SITTING DOWN TOGETHER AND WORKING OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.

a broad-based
prosperity

WISCONSIN'S PROSPERITY DOES NOT REST UPON A HIGH AND SHAKY PILLAR
-- UPON A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY OR A SPECIFIC NATIONAL POLICY.

IT RESTS UPON A BROAD PLATFORM WHOSE PILLARS ARE THE HARD WORK
AND PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR PEOPLE ... THE MOST FERTILE AND BOUNTIFUL
FARMS IN THE NATION ... THE PRUDENT INVESTMENT AND MANAGERIAL
EXCELLENCE OF OUR BUSINESS LEADERS ... AND A GOVERNMENT THAT IS
WILLING TO WORK WITH BUSINESS AND FOR LABOR.

OTHER STATES HAVE HAD THEIR "MIRACLES" AND THEIR MOMENTS IN THE
SUN, A GIFT FROM SOARING OIL PRICES OR NEW DEFENSE CONTRACTS.

BUT WE HAVE BUILT SOLIDLY IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, AND WE HAVE
LAID A STRONG FOUNDATION ... OF TESTED FAITH IN OUR STATE, IN
OURSELVES, AND IN EACH OTHER.

economic vitality

-- WE HAVE CREATED OVER 218,000 JOBS, IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

-- WE RANK THIRD IN THE NATION IN NEW MANUFACTURING JOBS, HAVING
CREATED OVER 50,000 SINCE JANUARY OF 1987.

-- FOR 36 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS BEEN
SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE NATIONAL RATE.

TODAY, WISCONSIN HAS THE FIFTH LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE
NATION.

-- LAST YEAR, OUR STATE HAD ITS SECOND BEST YEAR EVER IN HOUSING
SALES ... WITH OVER 79,000 HOMES PURCHASED IN WISCONSIN.

-- LAST YEAR, WHILE BUSINESS STARTS NATIONWIDE DROPPED 1.1 PERCENT,
IN WISCONSIN, BUSINESS STARTS WERE **UP** 10.2 PERCENT.

-- AND LAST YEAR, ... WHILE CONSTRUCTION WAS DOWN 8 PERCENT

NATIONALLY ... THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION IN WISCONSIN WAS UP 28 PERCENT OVER 1989, TOTALLING OVER \$6.6 BILLION

THROUGHOUT OUR STATE, WE HAVE BUILT -- BRICK BY BRICK -- A NEW, MORE PROSPEROUS, AND MORE CONFIDENT WISCONSIN.

four years ago ...

THAT IS EVEN MORE REMARKABLE WHEN WE CONSIDER HOW VULNERABLE WE WERE FOUR YEARS AGO -- HOW SHAKY OUR PROSPECTS SEEMED:

-- OUR STATE WAS HEADED TOWARD A \$300 MILLION DEFICIT ... AND ANOTHER ROUND OF TAX-AND-SPEND POLICY.

-- BUSINESSES WERE LEAVING THE STATE, DECRYING ITS "ANTI-BUSINESS ATTITUDE" AND PUTTING "ESCAPE FROM WISCONSIN" ADS IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

-- OUR CITIZENS, TOO, WERE LEAVING ... OVER 150,000 BETWEEN 1980 AND 1987.

BUT IN FOUR YEARS, WE HAVE LAID A NEW FOUNDATION FOR WISCONSIN -- STRONGER AND STURDIER THAN EVER BEFORE.

... THE GRANT THORNTON INDEX OF MANUFACTURING CLIMATES, HIGHLIGHTING THOSE STATES HAVING THE BEST INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, HAS BECOME A REGULAR GRAPH OF OUR GROWTH ... CHARTING WISCONSIN'S RISE DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

SINCE 1987, WE HAVE MOVED FROM 35th PLACE, TO 14th, TO 8th, ... AND LAST YEAR TO **THIRD** PLACE.

AND CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES HAVE ANSWERED OUR CALL TO COME HOME TO WISCONSIN.

SINCE 1987, MORE PEOPLE HAVE MOVED INTO WISCONSIN THAN HAVE MOVED OUT.

IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, TWO OF THE TEN U.S. CITIES WITH THE BIGGEST NET INCREASE OF PEOPLE MOVING IN ARE HERE IN WISCONSIN -- MADISON AND MILWAUKEE.

EVERY DAY, MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING HOME ... PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE

A PART OF THE MAGNIFICENT, NEW WISCONSIN.

AND WHEN MITCHELL FROMSTEIN WANTED TO MOVE HIS COMPANY --
MANPOWER -- BACK TO THE UNITED STATES FROM GREAT BRITAIN, HE DID
NOT DECIDE TO RETURN TO DELAWARE, WHERE MANPOWER WAS
ORIGINALLY INCORPORATED.

HE PICKED THE STATE WHICH HE KNEW WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST
OPPORTUNITIES ... THE BEST WORKFORCE ... THE MOST RESPONSIVE
GOVERNMENT: HE PICKED WISCONSIN.

MITCHELL, WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE "MANPOWER, INC." IN
WISCONSIN ... WHERE IT CAN BE PART OF THE GREATEST ECONOMIC
POWERHOUSE IN THE NATION.

THANK YOU, FOR YOUR FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN YOUR HOME STATE,
MITCH.

PLEASE WELCOME HOME MITCH FROMSTEIN ... A GREAT ENTREPRENEUR
AND A GREAT WISCONSINITE.

social programs

BUT WHEN OTHER STATES ASK "WHY CAN'T WE BE MORE LIKE WISCONSIN?"
THEY ARE NOT TALKING ONLY ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY.

THEY ALSO REFER TO WISCONSIN'S UNMATCHED SUCCESS IN BRINGING
NEW HOPE TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS. LEARNFARE ... SCHOOL
CHOICE ... JOB RIDE ... AND A HOST OF OTHER POLICIES ARE GIVING
FAMILIES THE CHANCE TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES, NOT ON WELFARE
DEPENDENCY BUT ON SELF-RELIANCE AND EDUCATION.

OUR SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM WAS RECENTLY CITED BY FORTUNE
MAGAZINE AS A "STANDARD FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS" IN THE 21st CENTURY.

OUR JOB RIDE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED 1900 CENTRAL CITY RESIDENTS
WITH EMPLOYMENT IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

BECAUSE OF LEARNFARE -- OUR TOUGH LOVE PROGRAM -- MORE THAN 1000
DROPOUTS ARE BACK IN THE CLASSROOM.

IN DECEMBER, A NATIONAL STUDY REVEALED THAT WHILE OTHER STATES SAW INCREASES IN THEIR WELFARE BURDEN AS HIGH AS 46 PERCENT ... WISCONSIN WAS THE **ONLY** STATE IN THE UNION TO SEE A DROP IN A-F-D-C CASELOADS. IN FOUR YEARS WE HAVE SEEN OVER 60,000 PEOPLE LEAVE THE WELFARE ROLLS.

the environment

SIMILARLY, WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF NATURAL BEAUTY THAT OUR PARENTS LEFT US.

LAST YEAR, THIS ADMINISTRATION MADE THE LARGEST LAND PURCHASE IN WISCONSIN'S HISTORY -- THE TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE. OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WILL ALWAYS HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL PART OF WISCONSIN TO ENJOY IN ALL ITS NATURAL SPLENDOR.

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS, WHICH GRADED ALL THE STATES LAST YEAR, GAVE US AN "A" FOR THE FUNDING WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR THE CONTROL OF AIR AND WATER POLLUTION.

BRICK BY BRICK WE HAVE BUILT A WISCONSIN THAT STANDS ABOVE OTHER STATES IN ECONOMIC STRENGTH, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP.

the wisconsin
difference

TWO NIGHTS AGO, IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, PRESIDENT BUSH SAID: "AMERICA HAS ALWAYS LED BY EXAMPLE. SO WHO AMONG US WILL SET THIS EXAMPLE?" WHO WILL LEAD?

MR. PRESIDENT, I SAY WISCONSIN WILL LEAD.

ALREADY, WISCONSIN IS TAKING THE LEAD IN THE VITAL AREAS THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED:

FOR CAPITAL GAINS, WISCONSIN HAS A 60 PERCENT TAX EXCLUSION.

OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE SHOWING THE WAY TO PROSPERITY AND SOLID GROWTH.

OUR ENTERPRISE ZONES ARE ALREADY IN PLACE ... PROVING THAT FREE ENTERPRISE CAN FLOURISH WHEREVER IT IS GIVEN A CHANCE.

AND OUR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE PROGRAM IS ALREADY UP AND RUNNING IN MILWAUKEE ... PROVING THAT THERE ARE NO CHILDREN THAT SHOULD BE WRITTEN OFF AS "IMPOSSIBLE TO EDUCATE."

WE URGE OTHER STATES TO LOOK TO THESE PROGRAMS ... TO LOOK TO WHAT WISCONSIN IS DOING IN ANSWERING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR INNOVATION IN GOVERNMENT.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF WISCONSIN'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS THAT I WANT TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES THAT CONFRONT US -- STARTING WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

HERE IN WISCONSIN, OUR GROWTH IS GOING TO BE SLOWER THAN LAST YEAR AND SOME COMMUNITIES ARE FACING TOUGH TIMES.

TOO MANY OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN MILWAUKEE'S CENTRAL CITY ARE PREY TO POVERTY AND FEAR.

OTHER TOWNS AND CITIES HAVE SEEN LAYOFFS AND PLANT CLOSURES.

ON OUR RESERVATIONS THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY WITHOUT JOBS.

OUR FARMERS ... WHO STRUGGLED UP WITH SUCH DETERMINATION TO RECOVER FROM THE HARD TIMES OF THE EARLY EIGHTIES ... ARE FACING TOUGH TIMES AGAIN BECAUSE OF FALLING MILK PRICES.

WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES WHO NEED OUR HELP.

BUT WHILE WE ARE FACING SLOWER GROWTH, WISCONSIN IS NOT IN A RECESSION.

WE MUST NOT LET TALK OF RECESSION BECOME A SELF-FULFILLING

PROPHECY -- FOR THE ECONOMIC FACTS SIMPLY DO NOT SUPPORT THE
PROPHETS OF DOOM.

WHILE OTHER STATES HAVE SEEN A SHARP FALL IN REVENUE, WISCONSIN
HAS SEEN THE OPPOSITE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE HAS JUST GIVEN ME THE DECEMBER SALES
RECEIPT FIGURES, WHICH REVEAL HOW WELL OUR STORES AND
BUSINESSES DID IN THE VITAL CHRISTMAS SALES RUSH ... AND THEY SHOW
A STRONG 4 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS DECEMBER.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX COLLECTION TO DATE ... AN EVEN CLEARER
INDICATION OF THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF OUR CITIZENS ... IS UP A
REMARKABLE 8.8 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AND JUST YESTERDAY, THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU CONFIRMED
THAT REVENUE COLLECTIONS WERE STRONGER THAN ANTICIPATED ... AND
OUR EFFORTS TO CAP SPENDING ARE ALREADY PAYING DIVIDENDS. WE
WILL CLOSE THE BOOKS ON THIS BUDGET WITH A BOTTOM LINE OTHER
STATES WOULD ENVY: A SURPLUS OF \$139 MILLION.

the budget

THAT DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE FREE TO PILE NEW
SPENDING PROGRAMS ONTO THE NEXT BUDGET ... FOR THE ONE FACTOR
MOST LIKELY TO PUSH WISCONSIN INTO A RECESSION IS A CRIPPLING TAX
INCREASE.

THERE MUST BE NO GENERAL TAX INCREASE IN THE BUDGET BILL.

INDEED, WE MUST MATCH THAT DETERMINATION NOT TO BURDEN
BUSINESS AND WORKERS WITH AN EQUALLY STRONG DETERMINATION TO
LIGHTEN THE HEAVY BURDEN OF PROPERTY TAXES ON OUR CITIZENS.

INSTEAD, WE MUST KEEP SPENDING TIGHT, AND INCREASES IN SPENDING IN
ONE AREA MUST BE OFFSET BY DECREASES IN ANOTHER.

WE'VE WATCHED OTHER STATES HIKE TAXES TO SUPPORT INCREASED
STATE SPENDING ... AND TODAY, THEIR ECONOMIES ARE STUMBLING AND
MANY OF THOSE STATES ARE FACING ANOTHER BUDGET SHORTFALL AND
ANOTHER ROUND OF TAX INCREASES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE ANSWER IS NOT MORE SPENDING ... THE

ANSWER IS NOT MORE TAXES ... THE ANSWER IS MORE FISCAL DISCIPLINE.

crime session

AND JUST AS WE MUST STAND AGAINST A TAX INCREASE THAT WOULD THREATEN ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR STATE ... WE MUST STAND TOGETHER AGAINST ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN MILWAUKEE'S CENTRAL CITY -- CRIME.

TWO DAYS AGO, AS IF ANTICIPATING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR LEADERSHIP IN FIGHTING CRIME, THIS LEGISLATURE BEGAN A SPECIAL SESSION TO ADDRESS AN ANTI-CRIME INITIATIVE. THE EIGHT ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE INITIATIVE I HAVE PROPOSED RANGE FROM INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON TO CREATING A VIOLENT CRIME COURT IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY.

AND ALONG WITH FIGHTING CRIME, WE MUST CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. IN MY BUDGET, I WILL PRESENT OUR "CENTRAL CITY INITIATIVE" WHICH WILL LAY OUT HOW WE PLAN TO STIMULATE THE AREA AND PROVIDE THE BEST WELFARE PROGRAM POSSIBLE: JOBS.

THAT IS NOT JUST AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOOD ... IT'S A MORAL GOOD.

educating for the
21st century

A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET AND A STRONG ANTI-CRIME INITIATIVE ARE VITAL IN PRESERVING THE GAINS OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND EXTENDING THE BLESSINGS OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY INTO OUR MOST TROUBLED AREAS.

BUT IN MEETING THESE CHALLENGES OF TODAY, WE MUST NOT NEGLECT TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.

UPON THE STRONG FOUNDATION WE HAVE LAID, I WANT US TO BUILD A WISCONSIN THAT TOWERS OVER EVERY OTHER STATE, IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. THE CORNERSTONE OF THAT WISCONSIN MUST BE AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT IS SECOND TO NONE.

IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM IN WISCONSIN ... ONE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF.

-- OUR STUDENTS LEAD THE NATION IN A-C-T SCORES.

-- THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM IS THE LARGEST PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY.

-- OUR VOCATIONAL TRAINING IS A MODEL FOR THE NATION.

... BUT I KNOW OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM CAN BE EVEN BETTER.

WE MUST BEGIN EDUCATING FOR THE 21st CENTURY TODAY.

I WANT OUR CHILDREN -- THE HOPE OF THE HEARTLAND -- TO BE PREPARED NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE IN THAT NEW WORLD ... BUT TO FLOURISH ... AND TO PROSPER ... AND TO CARRY WISCONSIN INTO THE UNDISPUTED LEADERSHIP OF OUR NATION.

THE CHILDREN WHO ENTERED KINDERGARTEN WHEN I FIRST TOOK OFFICE FOUR YEARS AGO, MUST GRADUATE FROM THE FINEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION IN THE YEAR 2000.

new design for
education

IN DECEMBER OF 1989, WE ESTABLISHED THE "COMMISSION ON SCHOOLS FOR THE 21st CENTURY" ... WHICH RECENTLY PRESENTED THEIR "NEW DESIGN FOR EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ONCE SAID, "AS OUR CASE IS NEW, SO MUST WE THINK ANEW." THIS IS AN EXCELLENT MOTTO FOR OUR EDUCATIONAL POLICY -- AND FOR THE COMMISSION'S REPORT.

THIS FALL, I WILL BE PRESENTING ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE IN ONE COMPREHENSIVE BILL.

BUT WE MUST BEGIN OUR WORK NOW. THEREFORE I HAVE SELECTED THE MOST PROMISING IDEAS TO PRESENT TO YOU IN THIS BUDGET.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS I AM MAKING ARE BOLD AND WILL BE CONTROVERSIAL ... BUT THEY ARE NO MORE DRAMATIC THAN THE CHANGES WE WILL SEE IN THE NEXT CENTURY.

freeing teachers

ONE IMPORTANT GOAL IS TO FREE UP SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS FROM SOME OF THE OBSTACLES TO EXCELLENCE THEY NOW FACE.

OUR TEACHERS SHOULD BE TREATED AS PROFESSIONALS ... AND THOSE WHO WANT TO SET UP IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, CONTRACTING WITH SCHOOLS TO OFFER THEIR VALUED SERVICES, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO.

THIS IN TURN WOULD ALLOW SCHOOLS TO ADD DIVERSITY TO THEIR CURRICULUM BY HIRING TEACHERS TO TEACH A PARTICULAR SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT NOT JUSTIFY HIRING A FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBER.

THE BEST TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION TO ENTER THE MARKETPLACE.

SIMILARLY, I WANT OUR STUDENTS TO HAVE GREATER FREEDOM OF CHOICE, WHICH IS WHY I AM PROPOSING THE JUNIOR-SENIOR OPTIONS PROGRAM. THIS WOULD ALLOW OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GET A HEAD START EITHER WITH

UNIVERSITY COURSES OR WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING ... PROVIDING EDUCATION THAT IS TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE STUDENT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES BETTER TAILORED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. THE BEST MEANS OF DOING SO IS TO ALLOW SCHOOLS THEMSELVES TO PROPOSE THEIR OWN MEANS OF ACHIEVING STATE EDUCATION GOALS.

WHERE A STATE MANDATE IS HINDERING LOCAL INNOVATION, SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ABLE TO REQUEST A WAIVER -- AND HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF GETTING IT.

school comparisons

AND AS SCHOOLS DEMAND PERFORMANCE FROM TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, PARENTS DEMAND PERFORMANCE FROM OUR SCHOOLS. THAT MEANS THAT WE MUST HAVE A MEASURE, A WAY OF COMPARING SCHOOLS AMONG THEMSELVES AND CHARTING THEIR PROGRESS. WE MUST NOT BE GROPING IN THE DARK AS WE SET A BOLD, NEW COURSE FOR OUR SCHOOLS.

THEREFORE, I AM PROPOSING THAT WE CREATE A UNIFORM SCHOOL REPORT CARD TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARENTS.

PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT AND A NEED TO KNOW HOW THEIR SCHOOLS ARE DOING, COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS AND COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE REPORT CARD SHOULD INCLUDE DATA ON DROPOUT AND SUSPENSION RATES, ATTENDENCE OF GRADUATES AT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, AND PERFORMANCE ON STATEWIDE TESTS.

THIS IN TURN MEANS EXPANDING STATEWIDE TESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS. CURRENTLY, THE ONLY STATEWIDE COMPARISON COMES FROM A THIRD GRADE READING TEST.

I WANT TO REPLACE THIS WITH COMPREHENSIVE ACHIEVEMENT AND COMPETENCY TESTING IN GRADES 3, 5, 7, 9, AND 10. THESE TESTS, TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, WOULD MEASURE NOT ONLY FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE BUT PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITIES -- THE SKILLS THAT WILL ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO FLOURISH IN A WORLD OF FAST-CHANGING TECHNOLOGY.

oversight

THE DATA WE GET FROM TESTING WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFORM THE WAY THE STATE OVERSEES SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

JUST AS SCHOOLS REWARD THE BEST STUDENTS AND WORK TO HELP THOSE STUDENTS AT RISK, I WANT THE STATE TO USE BOTH INCENTIVES AND POSITIVE INTERVENTION TO AID OUR SCHOOLS.

FIRST, I AM PROPOSING THAT WE PROVIDE BONUS GRANTS TO SCHOOLS THAT SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THEIR STUDENTS OR DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED EXCELLENCE.

SECOND, INSTEAD OF TEAMS OF MONITORS HUNTING DOWN DEVIATION FROM STATE MANDATES, I WANT TO SEE PROMOTERS OF EXCELLENCE WORKING WITH LOW-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OVERCOME THEIR CHALLENGES.

FINALLY, TO OVERSEE AND TO CONTINUE EDUCATIONAL REFORM IN WISCONSIN, I WANT TO ESTABLISH AN "EDUCATIONAL GOALS BOARD." THE BOARD WOULD INCLUDE BROAD REPRESENTATION FROM THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WOULD ESTABLISH LEARNING GOALS FOR THE STATE'S NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

THESE PROPOSALS ADD UP TO SCHOOLS THAT ARE TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENTS ...

SCHOOLS THAT ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO PARENTS ...

AND SCHOOLS THAT ARE FOCUSED ON THE NEXT CENTURY.

AS I SAID IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS, I WANT WISCONSIN TO MEAN NOT ONLY A "GATHERING OF THE WATERS" ... BUT ALSO A GATHERING OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE NATION.

THAT MISSION BEGINS WITH TRAINING THE MINDS OF OUR OWN CHILDREN TO MEET ANY AND ALL CHALLENGES.

1991's first child

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WISCONSIN IS OFF TO A NEW START, AND I WANT TO CLOSE BY DRAWING OUR ATTENTION TO ONE OF OUR NEWEST CITIZENS.

AT 12:03 A.M. ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR, NICHOLAS STEVEN FEYEREISEN WAS BORN IN HUDSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BECOMING THE FIRST WISCONSIN CITIZEN OF 1991.

WITH US TODAY ARE NICHOLAS AND HIS PARENTS, BOB AND JANET FEYEREISEN ... ALL THE WAY FROM HUDSON.

ALREADY, NICHOLAS HAS TAKEN THE FIRST STEP TOWARD HAPPINESS: BEING BORN IN WISCONSIN.

HE WAS BORN INTO A WISCONSIN WHERE THE PROVEN VALUES OF THE PAST HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE GREATNESS.

HE WAS BORN INTO A WISCONSIN WHICH IS COMMITTED TO BUILDING THE
FINEST SCHOOLS IN THE NATION ... TO FREEING THOSE SCHOOLS AND OUR
STREETS OF DRUGS AND CRIME AND VIOLENCE ... TO REACHING DEEP INTO
THE INNER CITY TO BRING HOPE AND HELP TO ALL OUR CITIZENS.

AND AS YOUNG NICHOLAS LEARNS TO TALK AND TO WALK AND TO READ,
WE WILL BE LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR AN EVEN GREATER WISCONSIN.

AND AT LAST, IN THE FIRST DECADE OF A NEW CENTURY, NICHOLAS WILL
GRADUATE FROM ONE OF THE FINEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION ...

... READY TO ENTER ONE OF OUR WONDERFUL COLLEGES OR VOCATIONAL
SCHOOLS ... OR TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE MOST VIBRANT ECONOMY IN THE
COUNTRY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I TRULY BELIEVE THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

I BELIEVE THE DECADE OF THE 90s WILL BE OUR BEST DECADE EVER.

IF WE BUILD UPON THE STRENGTHS WHICH HAVE ALWAYS PRESERVED US
IN THE PAST ... IF WE CONTINUE TO PUSH ONWARD AND UPWARD AND TO
REACH FOR THE STARS ... IF WE MAKE OUR CHILDREN THE FOCUS OF OUR
EFFORTS ...

WE CAN LEAVE FOR THE NATION AND THE WORLD AND OUR OWN
DESCENDENTS A BRIGHT AND SHINING LEGACY OF HIGH IDEALS AND
GREAT ACHIEVEMENT ... A LEGACY CALLED WISCONSIN.

THANK YOU, SO VERY MUCH.