

PRESIDENT RUDE, SPEAKER KUNICKI, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE;
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS; HONORABLE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME
COURT; TRIBAL CHAIRMEN; MEMBERS OF THE CABINET; DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS;

AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE --
FROM ASHLAND TO PORTAGE TO CLINTONVILLE -- WHO ARE VIEWING THIS
SPEECH IN CLASSROOMS AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES THROUGH THE USE OF
OUR FIBER-OPTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN.

IT IS ALWAYS WITH GREAT PRIDE, AND ALWAYS WITH GREAT PLEASURE,
THAT I REPORT TO YOU ON THE STATE OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

IN EVERY YEAR THAT I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO BE YOUR GOVERNOR,
THE GOOD NEWS HAS ALWAYS OUT-WEIGHED THE BAD ... AND THIS YEAR
IS NO EXCEPTION.

OUR WINNING WAYS HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED COAST-TO-COAST ...
WHETHER IT BE HOLDING DOWN TAXES ... CREATING JOBS ... REFORMING
WELFARE ... IMPROVING EDUCATION ... FIGHTING CRIME ... OR

SIMPLY AND INCREDIBLY WINNING THE ROSE BOWL.

IN FACT, WHY WAIT ANOTHER SINGLE MINUTE BEFORE INTRODUCING SOME OF THOSE HEROES WHO THE ENTIRE NATION APPLAUDS NOT ONLY FOR THEIR EXCELLENCE AND THEIR COURAGE ... BUT FOR THE WAY THEY REPRESENTED ALL THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN.

THEY BROUGHT HOME MORE THAN A TROPHY. THEY CAPTURED A DREAM.

LET US IN THIS CHAMBER SHOW THE APPRECIATION OF ALL WISCONSIN FOR WHAT IS TRULY AMERICA'S TEAM.

JOE PANOS (PAN-ohs) (brookfield)

J.C. DAWKINS (racine)

CHRIS HEIN (HINE) (plymouth)

JEFF MESSENGER (marinette)

BRENT MOSS (racine)

SCOTT NELSON (sun prairie)

CORY RAYMER (fond du lac)

RICK SCHNETZKY (SHNET-sky) (mequon)

LAMARK SHACKERFORD (gary, indiana)

MIKE THOMPSON (portage)

SAM VEIT (VITE) (racine)

MIKE VERSTEGAN (VERS-ta-gen) (kimberly)

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU HAS MADE US SO PROUD ... PROUD TO BE
A BADGER. ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE A BADGER?

(pause)

YOUR VICTORY EXEMPLIFIES WHAT MAKES WISCONSIN GREAT.

BARRY ALVAREZ DESCRIBED YOU AS A "LUNCH PAIL" TEAM.

YOU GOT UP IN THE MORNING ... ROLLED UP YOUR SLEEVES ... DID
THE HARD WORK ... AND BROUGHT HOME THE ROSES.

NOTHING FANCY. NOTHING FLASHY. JUST GRIT AND DETERMINATION
... AND A QUIET CONFIDENCE THAT SHOWED 'EM ALL. SHOWED 'EM ALL
THAT WE'RE WINNERS HERE IN WISCONSIN.

GENTLEMEN ... THANK YOU ... AND GOD BLESS YOU.

(team leaves)

((YOU KNOW, COACH ALVAREZ HAS BEEN OFFERED A 15 YEAR CONTRACT
TO COACH HERE IN WISCONSIN. I'D BE HAPPY WITH JUST FOUR MORE
YEARS!))

YES, WE ARE WINNERS HERE IN WISCONSIN. AND WE ARE GOING TO KEEP
ON WINNING. IN FACT, WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

WHEN VINCE LOMBARDI CAME TO GREEN BAY HE ANNOUNCED: "I HAVE
NEVER BEEN ON A LOSING TEAM, GENTLEMEN. AND I DO NOT INTEND
TO START NOW."

THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT WISCONSIN. WE'RE ON A WINNING TRACK
... AND I CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO CHANGE THAT NOW.

WHY HAS WISCONSIN BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL? BECAUSE WE WORK TOGETHER.

WHEN I STOOD BEFORE YOU ON JANUARY 28, 1987 TO DELIVER MY FIRST STATE OF THE STATE I SAID: "OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS TO CREATE MORE JOBS IN WISCONSIN."

WE'VE CREATED 367,000 JOBS SINCE THEN ... AND TODAY ... WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE WORKING IN WISCONSIN THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STATE.

(pause)

WE'VE CREATED JOBS AT A RATE ALMOST DOUBLE THE REST OF THE NATION ... MANUFACTURING JOBS ... CONSTRUCTION JOBS -- AND TODAY OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS THE 6TH LOWEST IN THE NATION.

AND TONIGHT, I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS DOWN AGAIN THAT MAKES 6 YEARS WE'VE BEEN BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

(pause)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE TOOK A STATE WHOSE TAXING AND FISCAL POLICIES WERE DRIVING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES AWAY ... AND TURNED

IT INTO ONE OF THE BEST-MANAGED STATES IN THE NATION, ACCORDING TO FINANCIAL WORLD MAGAZINE.

EIGHT YEARS AGO OUR LARGEST EMPLOYER -- KIMBERLY CLARK -- PICKED UP AND MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS TO TEXAS. REMEMBER THAT?

TODAY, KIMBERLY CLARK IS BACK. THEY JUST OPENED A NEW \$100 MILLION DOLLAR PLANT UP IN MENASHA ... THEY HAVE 1500 MORE PEOPLE WORKING HERE THAN THEY DID WHEN THEY LEFT ... AND THEIR CEO WAYNE SANDERS CALLS WISCONSIN, AND I QUOTE, "THE BEST STATE IN THE NATION AND IN THIS WORLD TO DO BUSINESS IN."

(pause)

WE ENDED UP '93 WITH \$9 BILLION IN CONSTRUCTION IN WISCONSIN -- THE BIGGEST YEAR EVER.

AND HOUSING SALES -- FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR -- SET AN ALL-TIME RECORD.

AND '94 IS STARTING OUT EVEN BETTER ... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WE HAVE 10 COMPANIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND I ARE WORKING WITH TO BRING THEIR BUSINESSES TO WISCONSIN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL...BUT THEY ALL
LOOK VERY PROMISING.

COMPANIES THAT COULD BRING FROM 100 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES TO
WISCONSIN TO 3,000 EMPLOYEES.

(LEINENKUGEL -- 50% EXPANSION MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION.)

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE WE LAST
HAD A GENERAL TAX RATE INCREASE IN THIS STATE. NOT SINCE WORLD
WAR II HAS WISCONSIN GONE THAT LONG WITHOUT A GENERAL TAX RATE
INCREASE.

(pause)

AND THAT'S A RECORD I'M PROUD OF.

AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS
PASSED A LAW TO RAISE THE INCOME TAX ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

WELL, TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN I HAVE THIS MESSAGE:
WISCONSIN WILL NOT ADOPT THIS CHANGE... WE WILL NOT RAISE TAXES

ON YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. PERIOD.

(pause)

OUR ECONOMY IS GROWING AND EXPANDING. THIS YEAR WE HAVE A \$200 MILLION SURPLUS. NOT MANY STATES CAN SAY THAT.

TONIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM SUBMITTING A SERIES OF INITIATIVES THAT WILL KEEP WISCONSIN ON THIS WINNING TRACK.

MY AGENDA FOR THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON MANY DIFFERENT AREAS: PROPERTY TAXES ... CRIME ... WELFARE ... EDUCATION ... AGRICULTURE ... AND HEALTH CARE.

I URGE YOU TO PASS THESE IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN THE NEXT 60 DAYS.

CRIME

THROUGH HARD WORK, GRIT AND DETERMINATION ... WE HAVE TURNED WISCONSIN INTO A SUCCESS STORY.

AND I INTEND TO EMPLOY THAT SAME GRIT AND DETERMINATION TO WIPE

OUT THE ONE THING THAT THREATENS OUR SUCCESS . . . THE GROWING
THREAT OF VIOLENT CRIME.

WISCONSIN'S CRIME RATE IS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE NATION.

BUT THAT'S NO COMFORT TO THE MOTHER OF 15-YEAR-OLD CHARLES
BRENSON, WHO WAS GUNNED DOWN IN THE STREET BECAUSE SOME OTHER
KIDS WANTED HIS JACKET.

AND IT'S NO COMFORT TO THE DAUGHTER OF CHRISTINE SCHWEIGER, WHO
WATCHED AS HER MOTHER WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED IN A RESTAURANT
PARKING LOT BECAUSE SOME KID DIDN'T LIKE HER "ATTITUDE."

I AM ASKING ALL OF YOU TO WORK WITH ME TONIGHT TO PASS THE
TOUGHEST ANTI-CRIME PACKAGE WISCONSIN HAS EVER CONSIDERED.

TO THOSE WHO DECIDE TO BREAK OUR LAWS, WE HAVE A VERY SIMPLE
MESSAGE: CRIME DOESN'T PAY . . . BUT YOU WILL.

TONIGHT I PROPOSE A CITIZENS SECURITY PACKAGE THAT I ASK YOU
TO PASS WITHOUT DELAY.

THE CENTRAL ELEMENT OF THIS ANTI-CRIME INITIATIVE IS TO ABOLISH
MANDATORY PAROLE FOR THE MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS IN WISCONSIN.

UNDER CURRENT LAW MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS MUST BE RELEASED FROM
PRISON AFTER SERVING ONLY TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR SENTENCE.

MANDATORY PAROLE MUST END ... AND IT MUST END NOW.

(pause)

AND LET'S THROW AWAY THE KEY FOR CAREER CRIMINALS. MY CITIZENS
SECURITY PACKAGE REQUIRES THAT ANY CRIMINAL CONVICTED OF A
THIRD VIOLENT OFFENSE AUTOMATICALLY BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IN
PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE.

YES, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THREE STRIKES IN WISCONSIN. BUT YOU'RE
NOT OUT AFTER THREE STRIKES ... YOU'RE IN. YOU'RE IN FOR LIFE.

(pause)

I KNOW THERE IS A LOT OF SUPPORT IN THIS CHAMBER FOR THIS
PROVISION. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO GET IT PASSED.

MY CITIZENS SECURITY PACKAGE ALSO CALLS FOR A NEW \$7 MILLION INVESTMENT IN PUTTING MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON OUR STREETS.

IT ESTABLISHES A "BEAT COP GRANT PROGRAM" THAT WILL PUT 225 MORE COPS ON THE STREETS . . . WALKING A BEAT . . . IN THE STATE'S MOST VIOLENT NEIGHBORHOODS.

IT INCLUDES \$1 MILLION FOR A NEW TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE. POLICE OFFICERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE EVERY DAY. WE OUGHT TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE BEST EQUIPMENT POSSIBLE.

IT INCLUDES \$500,000 TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY POLICING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR CITIES . . . AND \$500,000 FOR A WEED AND SEED PROPOSAL TO WEED OUT CRIMINALS AND SEED OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TO CREATE MORE JOBS AND MORE OPPORTUNITY.

AND AS WE BEEF UP SECURITY AND STIFFEN THE PENALTIES FOR COMMITTING CRIMES . . . WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THERE IS SPACE TO KEEP THESE CRIMINALS WHERE THEY BELONG . . . BEHIND BARS.

SINCE I CAME INTO OFFICE, WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE MOST AMBITIOUS PRISON PLAN IN THE HISTORY OF THIS STATE.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$9 MILLION DOLLARS TO SPEND ON
NEW PRISON SPACE.

SO TONIGHT I'M ANNOUNCING THE IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF
ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS AT BOTH THE OSHKOSH AND JACKSON COUNTY
PRISONS. THIS WILL GIVE US 300 NEW BEDS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST
TO THE TAXPAYERS.

AND IN MY BUDGET TONIGHT, I AM REQUESTING FUNDS FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 450 BED PRISON.

THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN EXPECT CRIMINALS TO BE TAKEN OFF THE
STREETS. TO DO THAT, WE NEED A NEW PRISON ... AND WE NEED IT
NOW.

(pause)

YES, IT COSTS MONEY TO BUILD PRISONS ... AND IT COSTS MONEY TO
KEEP PEOPLE THERE.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU THIS: IT COSTS MORE TO HAVE THOSE CRIMINALS
IN OUR COMMUNITIES ... TERRORIZING THE ELDERLY ... PREYING ON
OUR KIDS ... SHOOTING PEOPLE ... AND SELLING DRUGS.

IT IS TIME TO PUT THEM AWAY AND PROTECT THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS
OF WISCONSIN.

(pause)

AND LET'S GET GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CRIMINALS.

TONIGHT, I ANNOUNCE MY SUPPORT FOR THREE MEASURES I BELIEVE WILL
HELP ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

FIRST, WE NEED TO GIVE JUDGES THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE A FIREARMS
RESTRAINING ORDER WHEN A PERSON IS INVOLUNTARILY COMMITTED FOR
MENTAL ILLNESS.

SECOND, WE MUST GIVE JUDGES THE ABILITY TO RESTRICT THE FIREARM
POSSESSION OF THOSE WHO ARE UNDER RESTRAINING ORDERS WHEN
CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

AND THIRD, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT WE GIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCESS TO
GUN PURCHASE INFORMATION WHEN INVESTIGATING GUN-RELATED
CRIMES. THAT CAN'T HAPPEN UNDER CURRENT LAW.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DOYLE AND I WILL FORWARD LEGISLATION TO YOU
TO CHANGE THAT LAW.

(pause)

JUVENILE CRIME IS ANOTHER CRITICAL AREA THAT REQUIRES OUR
ACTION NOW.

I RECENTLY RECEIVED SOME LETTERS FROM A GROUP OF 5TH AND 6TH
GRADERS AT MILWAUKEE'S PARKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL. IN THE PAST TWO
YEARS, STUDENTS AT THAT SCHOOL HAVE SEEN TWO CLASSMATES KILLED
... ONE 12 YEARS OLD, THE OTHER 13.

YOUNG KRISTOPHER HOWARD WROTE TO ME... HE WROTE...DEAR
GOVERNOR:

I LIVE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE NO CHILD SHOULD LIVE.
PEOPLE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD AREN'T TOO FRIENDLY HERE.
BOYS PULL GUNS ON PEOPLE AND THREATEN TO DO SOMETHING TO
THEM. I THINK IT'S TIME FOR IT TO STOP.

YES IT IS KRISTOPHER. IT'S TIME FOR THIS TO STOP.

FOR ALL THE KRISTOPHERS OUT THERE -- WHO ARE TRYING TO LEARN
-- WHO ARE TRYING TO HAVE A CHILDHOOD LIKE YOU AND I HAD -- AND
FOR THEIR MOTHERS -- IT'S TIME TO GET TOUGH ON THE YOUNG TOUGHS
WHO ARE TERRORIZING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT'S WHY THE CITIZEN SECURITY PACKAGE I PROPOSE TONIGHT
CLAMPS DOWN ON KIDS WHO USE GUNS OR DANGEROUS WEAPONS TO HARM
ANOTHER PERSON. THOSE WHO DO WILL BE SENT TO ADULT COURT,
AUTOMATICALLY.

(pause)

PARENTS SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO SEND THEIR KIDS TO SCHOOL ...
TEACHERS SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO TEACH ... AND CHILDREN SHOULD
NOT BE AFRAID TO LEARN.

THE SENSELESS MURDER OF WAUWATOSA WEST HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
DALE BREITLOW MADE IT ONLY TOO CLEAR THAT WE MUST DO MORE TO
MAKE OUR SCHOOLS SAFE.

THAT'S WHY I AM PROPOSING A TOUGH NEW MANDATORY MINIMUM PRISON

SENTENCE FOR ANYONE WHO COMMITS A CRIME WITH A GUN IN OR AROUND
A SCHOOL. NO EXCUSES, NO EXCEPTIONS.

(pause)

AND IF YOU EVEN BRING A GUN TO SCHOOL, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR
DRIVERS' LICENSE TOO.

(pause)

AND THERE'S MORE WE SHOULD DO.

JUST THIS WEEK, A PACKAGE OF PROVISIONS DEALING SPECIFICALLY
WITH JUVENILES AND GUNS WAS PUT FORWARD BY A LARGE GROUP OF
LEGISLATORS.

THE PACKAGE ENSURES THAT VIOLENT JUVENILES ARE PROHIBITED FROM
PURCHASING FIREARMS AS ADULTS . . . IT HOLDS A PERSON ACCOUNTABLE
IF A GUN GIVEN OR SOLD TO A JUVENILE IS LATER USED TO KILL SOMEONE
. . . AND IT ALLOWS IMMEDIATE DETENTION OF JUVENILES WHO ARE
CAUGHT CARRYING GUNS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL SO THAT I CAN SIGN THESE
IMPORTANT PROVISIONS INTO LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AND LIKE ADULTS, JUVENILES WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR COMMUNITIES.

I AM ANNOUNCING TONIGHT THAT WE WILL BUILD A NEW JUVENILE FACILITY TO HOUSE THE MORE VIOLENT BREED OF JUVENILE CRIMINAL WE ARE SEEING TODAY.

OUR TWO EXISTING JUVENILE FACILITIES ARE OVERCROWDED. AND I WILL NOT ALLOW OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS TO BECOME AN EXCUSE FOR REVOLVING DOOR JUSTICE.

(pause)

WHILE WE STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE TO TAKE CRIMINALS OFF THE STREET . . . WE MUST ALSO REACH OUT OUR HAND TO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT-RISK BUT WHO WANT TO TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND AND BECOME PART OF THE WISCONSIN SUCCESS STORY.

THAT'S WHY I AM PROVIDING \$350,000 TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH VILLAGE IN MILWAUKEE . . . A RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOL THAT WILL PROVIDE THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND GUIDANCE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL NEED TO TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND.

(pause)

AND AS WE TAKE A TOUGH STAND TONIGHT AGAINST CRIMINALS WHO ARE JUVENILES, LET'S NOT FORGET THAT MOST OF OUR KIDS ARE WORKING HARD ... DOING THE RIGHT THING ... JUST LIKE MOST OF US.

THE QUALITY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WISCONSIN WAS DEMONSTRATED SO CLEARLY THIS SUMMER WHEN THE FLOOD HIT SO MANY OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CONSERVATION CORPS WERE THERE. WORKING 24-HOUR DAYS...HELPING STRANGERS REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

WE HAVE SOME OF THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HERE TONIGHT, AND I HONOR THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE TO WISCONSIN.

(acknowledge)

THERE ARE COUNTLESS HEROES BEHIND THE HEADLINES OF LAST YEAR'S FLOODS -- STORIES OF QUIET HEROISM THAT DEFINE WHO WE ARE IN WISCONSIN.

JOINING US FROM PORTAGE TONIGHT ARE MEMBERS OF OUR NATIONAL

GUARD WHO SERVED THE STATE SO WELL DURING THAT TIME OF
ADVERSITY; AND WITH THEM, ORDINARY HEROES WHO RISKED THEIR
LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS.

SERGEANT MICHAEL DEAKIN . . . BOB JACOBSON . . . AND MARCUS WHEELER
. . . YOU HAVE OUR RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.

(pause)

YOU KNOW, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE 25% OF OUR PRESENT . . . BUT THEY
ARE 100% OF OUR FUTURE.

THAT IS WHY OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM CAN'T JUST BE THE BEST IN THE
NATION -- IT'S GOT TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

AND WE'RE ON TRACK TO GET THERE. OUR SCHOOL-TO-WORK AND YOUTH
APPRENTICESHIPS ARE THE FIRST OF THEIR KIND IN THE NATION . . .
AND THEY ARE SERVING AS MODELS FOR THE NATION AS WELL.

THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDE JOB-READY SKILLS TO THE 70 PERCENT OF
OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DON'T GO ON TO EARN A COLLEGE
DEGREE.

WE STARTED LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO WITH PRINTING
APPRENTICESHIPS IN WEST BEND AND APPLETON -- AND WE'RE ADDING
PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ... INSURANCE
... HEALTH CARE ... ENGINEERING ... HOTEL/MOTEL MANAGEMENT ...
AND MANUFACTURING.

ONE APPRENTICES' MOTHER SAID: OUR SON COMES HOME AND SPEAKS
ABOUT "HIS COMPANY" AND "HIS JOB." THIS PROGRAM HAS MADE A BIG
DIFFERENCE ... IT'S INCREASED HIS ABILITY TO MAKE SOMETHING OF
HIMSELF.

(pause)

CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE ALSO HELPING WISCONSIN STAY ON THE CUTTING
EDGE OF EDUCATION INNOVATION.

TONIGHT, I'M PROPOSING NEW LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT THESE
SCHOOLS HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY THEY NEED TO OPERATE FREE FROM THE
REGULATORY CLUTCHES OF MADISON.

AND I AM ASKING THE TEACHERS UNION TO WORK WITH US ON THIS ...
TO HELP US PASS THIS LEGISLATION THAT WILL GIVE TEACHERS THE
FREEDOM TO EXPERIMENT IN THE CLASSROOM TO PROVIDE THE BEST
POSSIBLE EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

OUR SCHOOLS ARE OUR WINDOW TO TOMORROW. WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES TO MAKE THEM THE VERY BEST.

PROPERTY TAXES

AND THAT'S WHY TONIGHT I AM GOING TO BE PROPOSING THE SINGLE LARGEST INCREASE IN SCHOOL AIDS IN THE HISTORY OF WISCONSIN.

AND THIS NEW FUNDING WILL HELP REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES ... THE LAST REMAINING TAX WE REALLY HAVE TO CONTROL.

WE HAVE CONTROLLED TAXING AND SPENDING AT THE STATE LEVEL. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH CONTROLS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ... AND THAT IS WHERE YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS COME FROM.

THAT WHY IT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO GET COST CONTROLS IN PLACE.

AFTER SEVEN LONG YEARS, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON FINALLY PASSING THEM. COST CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE -- NOT ONLY ON OUR SCHOOLS

-- BUT ON CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES AS WELL.

COST CONTROLS WERE THE FIRST AND CRUCIAL STEP IN ACHIEVING REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THE TAXPAYERS OF WISCONSIN.

AND THEY'RE WORKING.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE, WISCONSIN'S PROPERTY TAX RATE HAS DECLINED. THE OVERALL TAX LEVY INCREASE THIS YEAR WAS THE LOWEST IT HAS BEEN IN SIX YEARS.

AND OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, COST CONTROLS WILL SAVE WISCONSIN'S PROPERTY TAXPAYERS \$2.5 BILLION DOLLARS.

THIS WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP. IT WAS ALSO THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT IT'S WORKING.

NOW THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED COST CONTROLS, STEP TWO IS TO BUILD MORE EQUITY INTO OUR SCHOOL AID FORMULA. IT'S TIME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR OUR POOREST SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

THAT'S WHY I AM ASKING FOR \$25 MILLION DOLLARS FOR OUR 100 POOREST SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THIS IS A FIRST INSTALLMENT -- A DOWNPAYMENT -- TOWARD GREATER EQUITY IN WISCONSIN'S SCHOOL

FUNDING.

IF THAT MONEY HAD BEEN IN PLACE THIS YEAR, THOSE 100 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD HAVE SEEN A 10% REDUCTION IN THEIR TAX RATES.

STEP NUMBER THREE IS TO REMOVE MORE SCHOOL FUNDING FROM THE BACKS OF THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS.

THAT'S WHY I AM PROPOSING THAT WE MORE THAN DOUBLE SCHOOL AIDS FOR THE COMING YEAR TO \$200 MILLION DOLLARS -- THE LARGEST SINGLE-YEAR INCREASE EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THIS STATE.

(pause)

WITH THIS MONEY WE CAN MAKE THE FIRST GIANT INSTALLMENT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

AND WE CAN DO EVEN MORE.

IF WE KEEP COST CONTROLS IN PLACE ... AND OUR ECONOMY REMAINS STRONG ... I PLEDGE TO YOU TONIGHT THAT WE WILL PUT AT LEAST ANOTHER ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS TO REDUCE SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

(pause)

WE HAVE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY HERE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO
DRIVE THE PROPERTY TAXES DOWN AND TAKE A GIANT STEP FORWARD TO
TAKE SCHOOLS OFF THE PROPERTY TAXES.

(pause)

AND WE'RE NOT STOPPING WITH SCHOOLS.

WE ARE PUTTING \$17 MILLION DOLLARS MORE INTO COUNTY MANDATE
RELIEF ... THAT'S A 300% INCREASE. AND WE ARE PUTTING \$8 MILLION
DOLLARS MORE INTO THE EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT PAYMENTS TO HELP
OUR MAJOR CITIES.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IS WITHIN OUR GRASP ... IT IS IN OUR SIGHTS
... AND TOGETHER, I KNOW WE CAN DO IT.

(pause)

WELFARE

IT IS THAT SAME LEVEL OF COOPERATION THAT HAS MADE WISCONSIN
A LEADER IN WELFARE REFORM.

WHEN WE CAME IN HERE, THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WAS EIGHTH IN THE
COUNTRY IN TERMS OF HOUSEHOLDS ON WELFARE. NOW WE ARE 31ST.

(pause)

WISCONSIN'S WELFARE ROLLS HAVE GONE DOWN MORE THAN THE REST OF
THE COUNTRY COMBINED . . . 19% IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS . . . WHILE
THE COUNTRY WENT UP 30%.

WELFARE ROLLS HAVE DROPPED IN EVERY SINGLE COUNTY IN THIS STATE.

(pause)

AND NOW, PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY.

GOVERNORS FROM MAINE, CALIFORNIA, GEORGIA, MONTANA, AND NEW
YORK -- JUST TO NAME A FEW -- ARE LOOKING TO WISCONSIN FOR
LEADERSHIP IN WELFARE REFORM.

AND TONIGHT WE HAVE AN EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITY -- REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS -- TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM NEXT YEAR THAT WILL TOTALLY REPLACE THE CURRENT WELFARE SYSTEM.

BUT THERE ARE SOME STEPS WE NEED TO TAKE NOW . . . NOT NEXT SPRING . . . NOT NEXT YEAR. CRITICAL STEPS TO CHANGE OUR WELFARE SYSTEM STATEWIDE, RIGHT NOW.

I WILL DETAIL THIS SERIES OF PROPOSALS TOMORROW, BUT LET ME GIVE YOU A BRIEF OVERVIEW TONIGHT.

FIRST, I WILL ONCE AGAIN ASK YOU TO APPROVE THE TOUGH CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROPOSAL THAT I ADVANCED IN THE BUDGET BILL LAST YEAR.

TO THOSE PARENTS WHO SHIRK THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, I SAY THIS: YOU CRUISE . . . YOU LOSE. WE WILL FIND YOU . . . AND WE WILL MAKE YOU PAY.

SECOND, IN THE REAL WORLD YOU DON'T AUTOMATICALLY GET MORE MONEY JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE MORE CHILDREN. IT SHOULD BE THE SAME FOR WELFARE.

AND I SEE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE IN ENCOURAGING TEENAGE MOTHERS TO MOVE OUT OF THEIR PARENTS' HOMES -- AND SETTING UP THEIR OWN HOUSEHOLDS -- IN ORDER TO RECEIVE HIGHER WELFARE BENEFITS.

THE CURRENT SYSTEM ENCOURAGES THIS. I HAVE SIGNED LEGISLATION TO CHANGE IT. LET'S PUT A STOP TO IT.

(pause)

LET'S MAKE SURE THE SYSTEM ENCOURAGES HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY, LIKE IT HAS FOR SHEILA ASSAF WHO IS HERE WITH US TONIGHT FROM FOND DU LAC.

FOUR YEARS AGO SHEILA WAS LIVING AT A HOMELESS SHELTER ... NO JOB ... NO CAR ... NO HOPE.

BUT SHE WENT THROUGH OUR JOBS PROGRAM ... GOT AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE ... AND NOW SHE HAS A FULL-TIME JOB WITH AGRI-BANK IN FOND DU LAC.

SHE'S INDEPENDENT NOW, SUPPORTING HERSELF AND HER DAUGHTER LAUREN.

SHEILA . . . CONGRATULATIONS!

(pause)

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST 7 YEARS . . . CREATING A STRONG ECONOMY . . . CREATING MORE JOBS AND MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE LIKE SHEILA.

TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY STRONG IN THE 21ST CENTURY -- TO CREATE MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN THE FUTURE -- WE NEED TO STAY ON THE CUTTING EDGE IN TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, AND ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN OUR WORKFORCE.

TONIGHT 15 SCHOOLS ARE VIEWING OUR MESSAGE THROUGH WISCONSIN'S DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK. (point to chart behind you) BEFORE THE YEAR 2000 I WANT EVERY SCHOOL TO BE PART OF THAT NETWORK.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IS A CRITICAL PART OF WISCONSIN'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. (pick up cables)

HERE IS THE PAST, MY FRIENDS (hold up old cable), AND HERE IS THE FUTURE (hold up in other hand fiber optic cable). THIS CABLE CARRIES 2,400 COMMUNICATION LINES. THIS CABLE CARRIES MORE

THAN 400,000.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO CABLES IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOVING AHEAD AND STANDING STILL. THIS CABLE MEANS MORE JOBS AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US AND FOR OUR CHILDREN.

AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT ONCE AGAIN, WISCONSIN IS LEADING THE WAY IN THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY.

AND I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT I WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION THIS SESSION TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MY BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE.

WITH YOUR PASSAGE OF THAT LEGISLATION, WISCONSIN WILL BE THE FIRST STATE IN THE NATION TO ESTABLISH THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY OF THE FUTURE.

AND AS WE'RE BUILDING THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE, LET'S MAKE SURE ALL OF OUR WORKERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF ABILITY.

(pause)

LAST YEAR, MY GLASS CEILING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED REFORMS TO
BREAK DOWN BARRIERS BLOCKING WOMEN AND MINORITIES FROM
ADVANCING IN THE WORKPLACE.

WE'RE THE FIRST STATE IN THE NATION TO COME UP WITH SUCH A PLAN.

TONIGHT I ASK FOR FUNDING TO CONTINUE OPERATION OF THE TASK
FORCE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL -- LET'S
SHATTER THE GLASS CEILING IN WISCONSIN.

(pause)

AS WE PLAN FOR A FUTURE OF GREATER OPPORTUNITIES AND CONTINUED
ECONOMIC GROWTH, WE NEED TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP
WISCONSIN'S FARM ECONOMY STRONG.

DESPITE THIS YEAR'S TERRIBLE FLOODS, WISCONSIN'S DAIRY FARMERS
ARE STILL AMONG THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD. WE LEAD THE
NATION IN PRODUCTION OF CHEESE, BUTTER, UNSWEETENED CONDENSED
MILK, AND SO MANY OTHER PRODUCTS.

WE WANT TO PRESERVE THE FAMILY FARM IN WISCONSIN, AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVE OUR FARMERS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO BE AS EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

TO DO THAT, I AM PROPOSING TONIGHT AN APPROPRIATION OF \$870,000 TO FUND OUR DAIRY 20-20 PROGRAM TO HELP OUR DAIRY FARMERS COMPETE WITH THE REST OF THE NATION.

(pause)

AND CONSTRUCTION IS ALSO BEGINNING NOW ON THE NEW WORLD DAIRY CENTER IN MADISON THAT WILL HELP KEEP WISCONSIN #1 IN DAIRY PRODUCTION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE MUST ALSO KEEP WORKING TO KEEP WISCONSIN LEADING IN HEALTH CARE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM DELIVERS QUALITY CARE...AND WE HAVE ONE OF THE LOWEST PERCENTAGES OF UNINSURED IN THE NATION.

LET'S BUILD ON OUR OWN STRENGTH.

NINE MONTHS AGO, I PROPOSED THE HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP PLAN TO BRING DOWN HEALTH CARE COSTS ... AND REFORM THE INSURANCE

SYSTEM TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE ARE TREATED FAIRLY WHEN THEY LEAVE
A JOB OR HAVE A SERIOUS ILLNESS.

LET'S NOT WAIT FOR WASHINGTON. LET'S PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM
IN WISCONSIN NOW.

(pause)

AND LET'S INSURE THAT PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT REMAINS A TOP
PRIORITY.

TOGETHER, WE'VE BUILT A SOLID RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ACHIEVEMENT . . . A SOLID RECORD THAT PROVES YOU CAN HAVE A STRONG
ECONOMY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE SAME TIME.

TONIGHT, I ASK THAT WE ESTABLISH A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN MEMORY OF ONE OF WISCONSIN'S GREAT
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS.

WITH THE DEATH OF GOVERNOR WARREN KNOWLES LAST YEAR, WISCONSIN
LOST A GREAT ENVIRONMENTALIST. TO HONOR HIS MEMORY AND CONTINUE
HIS GREAT WORK, I CALL FOR THE CREATION OF THE WARREN KNOWLES
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM . . . \$1 MILLION TO HELP CONSERVATION GROUPS

PURCHASE LAND THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

(pause)

CONCLUSION

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN WISCONSIN TONIGHT.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN 7 YEARS. BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP WORKING
SO WISCONSIN KEEPS WINNING.

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED ON THE WISCONSIN OF TOMORROW.

I HAVE SET FORTH AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS.

JUST LOOK AT OUR BADGER FOOTBALL TEAM ... KIDS FROM ALL OVER
THE COUNTRY ... DIFFERENT RELIGIONS ... DIFFERENT RACES ...
DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS.

THE REASON THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL WAS BECAUSE THEY PUT ASIDE THEIR
DIFFERENCES, AND FOUGHT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE TEAM.

I WANT US TO DO THE SAME.

(pause)

I BELIEVE IT IS WISCONSIN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD THE WAY.
LEADING IS OUR HERITAGE, AND WHEN WE ARE LEADING, WE ARE
WINNING.

YEARS AGO IT WAS WRITTEN THAT WISCONSIN IS "THE SOUL OF A GREAT
PEOPLE." AND HOW TRUE THAT IS.

THINK ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS ACROSS WISCONSIN -- THEY
WORK HARD EVERY DAY, BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS THERE TO HELP OUT WITH
THE SCOUT TROOPS, THE CHURCHES, THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND A
THOUSAND OTHER GROUPS THAT DEPEND ON VOLUNTEERS.

THEY'RE DECENT PEOPLE WHO TAKE CARE OF THEIR NEIGHBORS, PLAY
BY THE RULES, AND TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT. THAT'S HARD
TO FIND IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

YES, WE FACE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES. BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN SO
READY TO MEET THEM.

THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE OUR STATE
THE VERY BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO GET A JOB, START A BUSINESS,
AND RAISE A FAMILY.

THAT IS MY VISION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: TO CREATE MORE
OPPORTUNITY AND MORE SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN.

NOT JUST MORE JOBS, BUT MORE QUALITY JOBS. NOT JUST EDUCATION,
BUT THE BEST EDUCATION. NOT JUST THE END OF WELFARE, BUT THE
BEGINNING OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF
THEIR SELF-RESPECT AND SELF-RELIANCE.

NOT JUST REFORM IN TAXES OR HEALTH CARE OR PUBLIC SAFETY OR THE
ENVIRONMENT, BUT THE KINDS OF REFORMS THAT WILL GIVE PEOPLE
SECURITY TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

THESE ARE CHANGES WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

THESE ARE THINGS THAT WILL KEEP WISCONSIN WINNING.

LET US GO FORWARD, AND COMPLETE THIS MISSION TOGETHER.

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2: Gubernatorial Speeches.

GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.