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Inaugural Address  
State Capitol  
January 3, 1995  
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THANK YOU, SECRETARY KLAUSER.

THANK YOU TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE ... THE SUPREME COURT ...  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MCCALLUM ... FORMER GOVERNORS LUCEY, SC  
HREIBER, EARL, AND

DREYFUS ... CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS ... MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AN  
D ASSEMBLY ... TRIBAL CHAIRS ... MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ... GENERA  
L  
SLACK ...

AND THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN FOR GIVING ME THE  
TREMENDOUS  
HONOR OF SERVING AS YOUR GOVERNOR FOR A THIRD TERM.

IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY I ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE ... AND WITH PRIDE.  
IN PREPARING FOR THIS INAUGURAL, I THOUGHT BACK TO THE FIRST  
INAUGURAL I ATTENDED TWENTY-  
EIGHT YEARS AGO ... WHEN I WAS FIRST SWORN IN TO THE STATE  
ASSEMBLY.

THAT WAS ANOTHER VERY PROUD DAY FOR ME, AND FOR MY FAMILY.

THEY ALL CAME DOWN FOR THE CEREMONY MY MOTHER HAD NEVER  
EVEN BEEN TO THE STATE CAPITOL BEFORE.

AND JUST BEFORE THE CEREMONY, MY PARENTS GAVE ME A WATCH. MY  
MOTHER SAID TO ME "SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF, SON."  
SOMEDAY, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE GOVERNOR."

NEITHER ONE OF MY PARENTS LIVED TO SEE ME SERVE AS GOVERNOR ...  
BUT THEIR SPIRIT, THEIR WORDS --  
AND THIS WATCH HAVE STAYED WITH ME.

TO BE GOVERNOR OF THIS GREAT STATE WAS ONLY A DREAM FOR A 25-  
YEAR-OLD.

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

GROCER'S SON FROM ELROY... BUT THE FAITH AND SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY OVER THE YEARS GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO PURSUE THAT DREAM.

IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY... BUT THEY HAVE STUCK WITH ME THROUGH THICK AND THIN... AND I THANK THEM FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

I ESPECIALLY THANK MY WIFE, SUE ANN.

THROUGH ALL OF THIS, SHE HAS DEVOTED HERSELF TO TEACHING CHILDREN...

WE HAVE THREE TERRIFIC CHILDREN OF OUR OWN... AND SHE HAS BEEN MY PARTNER IN SERVICE TO THE STATE OF WISCONSIN FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.

I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE EXCITING TIME TO BE STANDING HERE... AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR... ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW MILLENNIUM... TO USHER IN A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

EIGHT YEARS AGO, I OUTLINED A VISION FOR THIS STATE... WE SET A BOLD NEW COURSE... AND TOGETHER, WE HAVE BUILT A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

TODAY, I AM CALLING ON YOU TO JOIN ME AS WE BUILD ON THAT FOUNDATION... TO DO NOTHING LESS THAN PREPARE WISCONSIN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

I AM TALKING ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WE ARE GOING TO BE DARING... AND WE ARE GOING TO BE BOLD.

THERE IS A PIONEERING SPIRIT THAT IS A PART OF US... IT IS IN OUR BLOOD... WE DON'T SHY AWAY FROM A CHALLENGE... WE ARE TOUGH... STRONG-MINDED... AND INDEPENDENT...

WE HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO GO OUR OWN WAY HERE IN WISCONSIN... AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, WE END UP LEADING THE WAY AS A

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

RESULT.

OUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF:

WE TURNED OUR ECONOMY AROUND... CREATED JOBS... CUT TAXES... REFORMED WELFARE... PROTECTED OUR ENVIRONMENT... GOT TOUGH ON CRIME... AND BUILT THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE NATION.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

THE AGENDA THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT OUT IN WASHINGTON IS THE AGENDA WE HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED HERE IN WISCONSIN. WE ARE SERVING AS A BEACON FOR THE REST OF THE NATION.

BUT WE ARE NOT CONTENT IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

YES, WE TAKE PRIDE IN THEM... AND YES, WE USE THEM AS INCENTIVE FOR NEW ENDEAVORS...

BUT TO SIT BACK AND CONGRATULATE OURSELVES IS NOT HOW WE DO THINGS HERE.

WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE.

ON ELECTION DAY, THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN MADE IT VERY CLEAR. THEY GAVE US THE MANDATE TO PROCEED.

THEY SAID THEY WANT WISCONSIN TO BE BETTER THAN THE REST... THEY WANT WISCONSIN TO LEAD THE WAY.

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE INTEND TO DO.

LET OTHERS JUDGE US BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

WE SHOULD JUDGE OURSELVES BY WHAT WE KNOW WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING.

WE CAN BUILD ON AN ECONOMY THAT IS ALREADY ONE OF THE STRONGEST IN THE NATION...

WE WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE JOBS...

WE WILL COMPLETELY REPLACE THE EXISTING WELFARE SYSTEM...

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

WE WILL BUILD AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT GIVES EVERY ONE OF OUR STUDENTS THE TOOLS FOR SUCCESS... WE WILL STAY TOUGH ON CRIME... TO KEEP OUR STREETS SAFE... WE WILL PURSUE THE TECHNOLOGY THAT IS ALREADY SETTING WISCONSIN APART... THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY IS HERE... WE ARE ON IT... AND WE ARE OUTPACING THE REST OF THE NATION.

WE WILL PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO THE TAXPAYERS OF WISCONSIN... WITHOUT RAISING OTHER TAXES.

AND WE ARE GOING TO RADICALLY AND COMPLETELY RESHAPE STATE GOVERNMENT... WE ARE GOING TO CREATE A NEW GOVERNMENT FOR A NEW CENTURY.

YEARS FROM NOW, PEOPLE WILL LOOK BACK AT WHAT YOU AND I ARE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AS ONE OF THE MOST EXCEPTIONAL PERIODS IN OUR HISTORY... WE ARE GOING TO PROVIDE A LEGACY... TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN THIS STATE AND BEYOND.

WISCONSIN IS STRIKING FORTH... WE ARE GOING WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE... AND WE ARE DOING SO WITH CONFIDENCE... AND WITH BOLDNESS.

THESE ARE HALLMARKS OF OUR HISTORY.

THEY ARE WHAT LED A YOUNG EXPLORER NAMED NICOLET TO STRIKE OUT INTO A GREAT UNKNOWN TO FIND A WAY TO CHINA... WHAT HE FOUND INSTEAD WAS WISCONSIN... AND THE DOOR TO VAST NEW RICHES IN A NEW WORLD.

CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS ARE WHAT LED A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR TO OPEN ONE OF THE STATE'S FIRST CHEESE FACTORIES... THIS AT A TIME WHEN "WHEAT WAS KING" IN WISCONSIN... A FEW YEARS LATER, DAIRY WAS KING... WISCONSIN WAS "AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND"... AND WE STILL ARE. THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY BROUGHT WITH IT A NEW OUTLOOK ON GOVERNMENT, USHERED IN BY A MAN THEY CALLED "FIGHTING BOB".

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

WISCONSIN LED THE WAY IN FIGHTING FOR WORKING PEOPLE AND  
OPENING GOVERNMENT... BOLD REFORMS THAT LED THEODORE  
ROOSEVELT TO CALL US "A PIONEER BLAZING THE WAY [FOR] AMERICA."  
"

SOME THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY BOLD WHEN I RAN FOR GOVERNOR BACK  
.  
IN 1986..

I WAS NOT WELL-KNOWN... I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY...

BUT WHAT I DID HAVE WERE IDEAS... IDEAS THAT STRUCK A COMMON  
SENSE CHORD WITH THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT WHEN YOU ARE SMASHING MONUMENTS,..  
KEEP THE PEDESTALS... THEY ALWAYS COME IN HANDY.

IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, YOU AND I HAVE CERTAINLY SMASHED SOM  
E OF THE EXISTING NOTIONS ABOUT WELFARE, AND EDUCATION, AND T  
HE  
ECONOMY.

BUT WE DID SO FROM THE BASE OF WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITH US:..  
.  
CONFIDENCE... BOLDNESS... HARD WORK... DETERMINATION...  
INNOVATION...

FROM THE FUR TRADERS TO THE LUMBERJACKS... THE SETTLERS TO TH  
E  
SAILORS... OUR HERITAGE IS ONE OF PEOPLE WHO PURSUED THEIR  
DREAMS... WHO HAD THE IMAGINATION AND THE HEART TO REACH OUT  
.  
FOR CHANGE... TO SEEK A BETTER WAY.

IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT WE HAVE TODAY.

WHAT IS NOT DONE YET... IS WHAT WE HAVE NOT YET ATTEMPTED TO  
DO.

IF YOU SET LIMITS FOR YOURSELF... YOU WILL NEVER EXCEED THEM.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE HELD IN BY BOUNDARIES... YOU WILL NEVER  
ESCAPE THEM.

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, A GOVERNOR STOOD HERE AND SAID WE SHOULD

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

SOAR·LIKE·THE·EAGLES··AND·WE·HAVE.

TODAY,·WE·ARE·READY·TO·SOAR·ABOVE·THE·EAGLES·...·UNLIMITED·...·  
FREE·TO·GO·ANYWHERE·OUR·IMAGINATION·AND·OUR·DREAMS·CAN·TAK  
E·US.

ACROSS·THIS·STATE·---·FROM·ELROY·TO·SUPERIOR·...·GREEN·BAY·TO·  
PLATTEVILLE·OUR·PEOPLE·ARE·DREAMING·AGAIN··THEY·ARE·  
IMAGINING·AN·EVEN·BETTER·WISCONSIN·IN·THE·21ST·CENTURY.

TOGETHER,·WISCONSIN·IS·GOING·TO·LEAD·THE·COUNTRY·INTO·THE·NEW  
·  
CENTURY·...·AND·BEYOND.

THANK·YOU·...·GOD·BLESS·YOU·...·AND·GOD·BLESS·THE·GREAT·STATE·OF  
·  
WISCONSIN.