

Inaugural address

of

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**Inaugural Address**

*To the General Assembly and the People of Vermont:*

It gives me great pleasure today to welcome the members of the Legislature, who during the months ahead must plot the course which Vermont will follow in the next two years, and even beyond. Your task and mine is bound to be a difficult one, but with a determination to find solutions and with the co-operation of our people, we will work together to make a better State.

As I undertook my duties as governor two years ago, I asked the Legislature to help develop a program that would accomplish for the State the prosperity and happiness of our people. Looking back briefly today to the accomplishments of the 1955 Legislature, I believe that we have fulfilled in some measure many of our aims.

No individual nor any group of individuals can claim sole credit for these achievements. Unselfish efforts of all of us, regardless of background or political beliefs, have mainly been responsible for our gains.

The progress we have made is real—and beneficial to all Vermonters.

We have added 100 miles of new highway which will aid the future growth of our agricultural, industrial and recreational activities.

We have helped more young Vermonters than ever before to have access to a college education, and state aid has helped our communities to erect new primary and secondary schools.

A tremendous addition to our electric power capacity—100,000 kilowatts of electricity from the St. Lawrence development—will soon be available to us.

Employment in Vermont is at an all-time high. Agriculture has demonstrated it can and will overcome the burdensome obstacles of revolutionary change. Our recreation business grows with every season. Industry has prospered in nearly every area, and new plants have sprung up around the State. We have the good economic climate needed by Industry and its most valuable component, Labor.

These results are gratifying to all of us, but the job is far from done. Bearing in mind the needs of all Vermonters and particularly their ability to pay for programs to meet these needs, we now must face the problems of the future.

I believe we have reasons to have faith in this future. We may not be able to do all things needed at once, but we can plan prudently and intelligently for greater opportunities and a better life for our citizens. As members of the General Assembly you are the architects of Vermont's future.

**AGRICULTURE**

During the past two years Vermont Agriculture has made remarkable progress. Present indications are that total sales of Vermont farm products in 1956 will be in the vicinity of 122 million dollars, the highest on record for peacetime. Our great dairy industry accounts for about three-fourths of this total.

Agriculture contributes greatly to the total economy of our State. The impact of technical and mechanical revolution in agriculture on Vermont farms is far reaching. Our farms are adjusting to changes with reasonable speed, but much more must be done and the farmers must have the sympathetic understanding of all the people of the State.

Our great problem is to increase the sale of our own top quality Vermont farm products in highly competitive markets. This can best be done by farmers themselves through their own sales promotion organizations, such as the American Dairy Association, Dairy Councils, June Dairy Month Committees, Dairy Festivals, Maple Festivals, the Poultry and Egg National Board, the New York-New England Apple Institute and others of like nature.

I commend the Vermont farmers and their organizations for the outstanding work they have accomplished by helping themselves. But farmers' bargaining power must be increased through better-supported, better-coordinated marketing and service co-operatives.

Maple products, poultry and cull dairy animals are the commodities most in need of better marketing facilities. As these facilities are developed, additional employment will be furnished to Vermont people.

While the solution of the problems of agriculture depends chiefly on action by the farmers as individuals and through organizations, the state government can do much to help.

Specifically, large portions of our considerable volume of agricultural laws are outdated. Obsolete sections should be repealed. Other sections need revision to improve service and reduce costs of administration.

The brucellosis eradication program provided by the last Legislature in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture is going well. But complete eradication requires 100 per cent participation. The Vermont Department of Agriculture should have authority to require all livestock owners to come under the test vaccination plan, when the owners of 75 per cent of the cattle in the State have signed up on a voluntary basis.

The present state program for control of Dutch Elm disease has, for the past ten years, retarded the advance of this disease in some of our villages. But now that the disease has spread statewide from all our borders and is likely to be found anywhere in the State, the present plan should be revised.

Backed by the ability and the initiative of Vermont farmers, the cooperation and assistance of the Vermont Department of Agriculture and Extension Service, and the Federal agencies, Vermont agriculture will successfully meet the many problems confronting it today.

### **HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT**

Highway improvement continues to be the very core of Vermont's future development. We have made considerable progress in this field the last two years.

In my previous inaugural message, I recommended a three-year highway construction program. Since the start in 1955 much has been completed. The Highway Department expects that the whole program will be under construction prior to July 1, 1957—in other words, within a two-year period. I believe this is one of the most progressive programs accomplished in Vermont's history.

Yet, there remains much to be done.

The Federal Congress last summer approved a gigantic national road building program to cost 41 billion dollars. To Vermont this means the construction of 343 miles of high-grade interstate highway at a total cost of approximately 200 million dollars. Vermont's share of this would be roughly 10 per cent or about 20 million dollars.

Let me stress again that this is a long-range program, not one which will be completed or financed overnight. At the present time it is believed it will take from 13 to 15 years to complete the 343 miles of interstate highway within the boundaries of Vermont.

We cannot afford for one minute to sit back and let 47 other states take advantage of this national highway program, while we falter because of doubt and uncertainty of our future. The importance of modern highways to the future of Vermont is much too great to risk timid or delayed action.

Because of the large federal participation, the financing of the interstate system will not be our chief highway problem. The big problem facing us at this crucial turning point in our economic history is one of making sufficient funds available at the state level to modernize those main trunk lines in the areas of our State which will not be serviced by the interstate system—but which nevertheless will benefit indirectly from it. All sections of Vermont must be provided with good, modern highways, not just those sections through which the interstate limited access road will pass.

Progress rides on wheels today. Hopes for our Vermont future are closely tied to the use of the automobile, the truck, the bus and other highway transport. Therefore we must have an adequate system of safe highways.

I therefore recommend to this Legislature a further expansion of our highway development program. In 1955 I recommended, and the Legislature approved, a \$12,000,000 bonding program for new highway construction. I now propose an additional \$25,000,000 bond issue for the same purpose. This will match federal funds for the interstate system, match all federal funds for other state highways and provide several million dollars additional for construction work in the next four years beyond the point where federal funds are available. I shall have specific recommendations concerning the financing of this program in the budget message.

Although the present highway program has progressed faster than anyone anticipated two years ago, a great many projects have been held up by what appear to be unnecessary delays in our court. Vermont law allows an appeal of the necessity of building the highways, as well as the compensation for taking a man's property. It also provides that work on the project cannot start until these questions are settled in the courts.

I recommend that this General Assembly pass legislation that will eliminate or reduce the delay in highway construction caused by court procedure to prove "necessity." This must be done without jeopardizing the rights of the individual property owner to obtain just compensation.

Failure to enact such legislation could block the expanded Vermont highway program, with resultant loss of federal aid appropriations, since there is a time limit beyond which these funds will no longer be available.

I also recommend that you give serious consideration to approval of a method of simplification of the Highway Department's accounts.

Bear in mind always that the highways of Vermont should not be regarded as a political football. They are much too important to our way of life.

In regard to keeping the highways free of litter, I favor the recommendations of the Highway Litter Commission which you have before you.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Work for the industrial development of Vermont must be accelerated during the next two years. St. Lawrence power, the possibility of construction of the Champlain cut-off, development of four season recreation potential in every section of the state, speeding up of our highway construction program, plus the always-recognized fact of the productivity of our workers, are among the factors which today make Vermont attractive to industry owners seeking a new site. Also these factors are encouraging those industries already with us to expand their factories and other operations.

Two years ago as I delivered my inaugural message, there were serious unemployment problems in many sections of Vermont. The picture was not good.

Since then we have made extensive gains in employment which last September reached an all-time high. The outlook for this year is for an even greater number of jobs for our people.

These gains have in most cases been accomplished through the activities of community, regional and state development programs, plus an expansion of the industrial promotion work of the Vermont Development Commission. Since January 1955, 28 plants have begun new operations in Vermont, and 17 other existing industries have expanded their facilities.

As I pointed out earlier, we have a good climate for business in Vermont today. But only through understanding of the problems of business and industry can we maintain a healthy atmosphere for industrial expansion.

You will be asked to enlarge the industrial program of the VERMONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. I hope this Commission will give careful consideration to co-operation with various regions of Vermont in setting up areas for location of industrial plants which can take advantage of the rapid development of our new highway system.

The Development Commission has made good headway in setting up an industrial research division. Already this division is able to report progress in bringing new business into the State. Industrial development does not come easy, but it can come to those who work for it. We must work for it.

### **DEVELOPMENT CREDIT**

Under present-day conditions bank credit is needed for the expansion of valuable industries now operating in the State, or for development of new industries, and I would urge Vermont banks to operate under a forward-looking policy of aiding in every way possible to help in this development of our state's economy. It is unfortunate that there has been such a long delay in getting the Vermont Industrial Development Credit Corporation into operation. This Corporation, authorized by the 1953 Legislature, has not yet been organized to the point where it can function. It is hoped that the banking interests and others will get behind this Corporation, as I am sure that it will be one method of assisting in providing more jobs in Vermont.

### **ELECTRIC POWER**

Electric power at a reasonable rate is a prime requisite for industrial growth, as well as being needed by our farmers, householders and recreational interests.

During the last two years the people of Vermont have witnessed the successful procurement on the part of the State of the contract for 100,000 kilowatts of St. Lawrence power from the New York Power Authority. This was accomplished by careful, detailed planning and negotiation by the Vermont Public Service Commission. The Commission deserves congratulation from the people of Vermont for the job it has done.

The state of Vermont is involved, to the extent of being the purchaser of 100,000 kilowatts of energy which it will be necessary to distribute, making sure that the power is delivered to Vermont consumers at the lowest possible rates, as it must be according to the contract.

The members of the Public Service Commission have lived close to the problem of the St. Lawrence power supply for two and one-half years. They have the authorization from the State Legislature to carry out the job. I feel strongly that it will be much safer and in the best interest of all the citizens of Vermont to leave the allocation of the power and arrangements for distribution lines with the Public Service Commission.

Our State now uses 170,0000 [sic] kilowatts. When one realizes that projections predict the demand for electric power in Vermont in 1985 at over one million kilowatts, it is hardly necessary for me to point out that we must be looking for new sources of power. Thus Vermont will watch with interest the work now underway in development of electric power from atomic energy.

### **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

The labor and employment picture in Vermont is tied directly to further progress in the fields of industrial development and an ample supply of power at lowest cost possible. Right now employment conditions in Vermont are good and we expect them to continue so.

The 1955 General Assembly approved several measures to liberalize Unemployment and Workmen's Compensation benefits, all of which have helped our working people considerably. Liberalization of such laws pertaining to employees' welfare should continue, ever having in mind the ability of industry to absorb the cost and with due regard to the success of the program as related to the morale of the worker.

Specifically, I believe the occupational disease benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act should be liberalized to allow increased disability benefits beyond the present \$300 maximum. The possibility of increasing the maximum weekly Workmen's Compensation benefit should be carefully considered.

I recommend that the Legislature review the Unemployment Compensation Act and if there are certain inequities in its present disqualification and eligibility provisions, that they be eliminated.

I also propose that an amendment permitting municipalities to have local control over coverage under the Unemployment Compensation law be enacted.

## **RESOURCES**

I believe it will be helpful to the future development of Vermont that the Assembly approve the establishment of a Vermont Resources Committee, which will make a study of our state resources in all fields and make recommendations for their use and development.

Our water resources could easily prove to be a valuable key to future development. Today many areas of our country are suffering from a shortage of water and are forced to go long distances for an adequate supply.

We still have an abundance of water. But because of this abundance, many persons have felt that the supply was inexhaustible and have used it carelessly. We should conserve, clean up and develop this natural resource so that it can be used to its fullest extent.

We must continue to give attention to our streams to provide needed protection against the ravages of flood, as we are now doing in many sections of the state in cooperation with other New England states and the Federal Government. The recent destruction in southern New England warns that floods are an ever-present threat to this region.

The GEOLOGICAL studies of the resources below the surface of our earth have been stepped up considerably during the last two years, as the result of approval by the 1955 Legislature of my recommendation for expansion of this work. I strongly recommend that the Legislature continue to support this work so that we may be able to issue a complete geological mapping of the state by 1961, the 100th anniversary of the issuance of our last geological map.

The State should also co-operate to the fullest with private individuals and organizations, in determining the value of certain minerals which we know exist within our boundaries.

## **TOURIST AND RECREATION BUSINESS**

Our fast-growing tourist and recreation business, whose income rise yearly is measured in millions of dollars, must have the co-operation of every department of the State able to extend assistance.

We must continue to give co-operation to people both inside Vermont and those from outside, who wish to help us develop recreational sites.

I have asked for expansion of the activities of the Vermont Development Commission in helping to develop this valuable source of state income.

The STATE PARKS of Vermont are an integral part of this tourist and recreational development. During the last two years we have continued our extension of state parks and recreational areas. Six summer camping and picnic areas have been started or considerably improved. Five ski areas have been provided with approach roads, parking areas, warming huts or a combination of these facilities.

As our recreation business grows, there is an increasing demand for camping space at these state park areas, and we must increase these facilities. This can be done through the receipts taken in from our state parks.

## **FORESTRY**

Our forests are of tremendous importance to the farmers and other citizens of Vermont, both present and future. During the past two years, more and more land owners have co-operated with the Department of Forests and Parks in the practice of selective cutting of their timberlands. Many large companies have put their forest lands under sustained yield management.

The question of equitable forest taxation still remains to be solved, and I hope this Legislature may be able to come up with the solution.

I have approved the state's co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Soil Bank Act. In two years the annual production of seedlings for reforestation of our idle lands will be increased from 2 million to 12 million trees.

## **FISH AND GAME**

Fish and game are a valuable part of our natural resources, providing our own citizens with food and recreation and also attracting thousands of visitors from out of state who are interested in fishing and hunting.

In this respect, I caution against any move to raise non-resident hunting and fishing licenses simply to retaliate against our neighboring states. More than 55 per cent of our license funds comes from the non-resident group, and I believe that by leaving the license fees at their present rate we can encourage thousands more visitors to come into Vermont.

I also believe that the Legislature should give careful consideration to the Fish and Game Service's program of acquiring public access to our lakes and ponds, and that an expansion of this program would be justified.

## **EDUCATION**

The needs of Primary and Secondary Education in Vermont will be among the vital issues facing this Legislature. Nothing is more crucial for the future well-being of the State than the education of its citizens.

While education is, in strict legal terms, ultimately the responsibility of the State, the vigor of our school system requires a large measure of local initiative and responsibility. It is proper, therefore, that our laws delegate a considerable degree of both of these to the local school districts.

The people of the State, through their legislators, specify orderly ways for school business to be carried on, and provide for broad minimum standards. The educational level in each community is properly the concern of the State as a whole.

But I am concerned by the trend of events in which more and more local school districts are needlessly allowing the State to take over school matters, which were once pridefully claimed as the responsibility of the local community. Now we hear the cry for more federal participation in our school problems, especially schoolhouse construction. Any move in this direction should be taken only after most careful consideration of all factors involved. We should remember that the growth and maintenance of our individual freedoms and our development as a nation can be attributed in large measure to local interest in, and local management of our schools.

The key element in any school is the TEACHER. We have in our Vermont schools, on the whole, a corps of devoted and effective teachers, but we are fast losing them to other states. The pace of our loss is quickening because of the widening gap between Vermont salaries and those paid in the rest of the Northeast.

The only way to check this loss is by paying higher salaries ourselves. I recommend revision of the minimum salary law to put these principles into effect, and I shall cover this recommendation specifically in the budget message.

In the three and one-half years since the SCHOOL BUILDING aid law was passed, nearly 50 Vermont towns have erected new school buildings with state assistance. Others still need them, and construction proposals are in the process of being studied or prepared for a vote. If recent rates of building continue, the original authorization of funds will be used up before the next Legislature meets. I therefore recommend added bonding be authorized to take care of this important need during the next few years.

Our laws relating to the accounting for school funds by local districts have for many years been difficult to interpret and have from time to time caused embarrassment and misunderstanding among local school officials. It is essential that all moneys allocated to schools be used for school purposes and that a clear understanding be possible among all officials concerned. I therefore recommend that the laws governing local school funds be amended so that they are more clear and realistic.

Vermont TEACHERS COLLEGES have shown a marked growth in enrollment—37 per cent in the past three years. These institutions serve their own regions in valuable ways as well as the State as a whole.

Until we have a clear-cut, long-range program for improvement of our over-all teacher training system, I do not feel we should make any large capital expenditures at any of the present teacher colleges. This long-range program should be formulated as soon as possible.

The VERMONT SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE at Randolph Center has trained Vermont farm boys for many years and has done a good job. The times are changing, however. Enrollment has dropped off considerably at this school in the past three years, and now there are 35 boys attending this institution, 25 of these from Vermont.

We still need trained young men on our farms, but we also need trained workers in industry. Until such a time as a program can be developed for greater use of the facilities of this school, not only in agriculture but in other fields, I would recommend its closing. This proposal is to be taken as no reflection on the school, its faculty or its administration.

We have made considerable progress in the last few years in the fields of SPECIAL EDUCATION and vocational rehabilitation. I urge this Legislature to carry on these important projects, which include the training in their own communities of many of our retarded children.

Turning to HIGHER EDUCATION, it has been nearly two years since the action of the Legislature provided lower tuition at the University of Vermont for all qualified Vermont boys and girls. Whether this lower tuition has been effective is perhaps best shown by a brief comparison of enrollment figures.

In 1954-55 when Vermonters enjoyed tuition preference only in Agriculture, Medicine, Elementary Education and Junior High School Education, the number of Vermonters in undergraduate and graduate college courses at the University totaled 1047 students.

This figure was increased to 1204 during the 1955-56 school year, and to an estimated average of 1320 this school year.

It will be gratifying to many to know that this increase is NOT at the expense of other Vermont colleges, but represents instead—as was the hope of the 1955 Legislature—an increase in the number of Vermonters going to college. It also means that fewer of our young people are going out of state to acquire an education.

The lowering of tuition for Vermonters and the increase in the number of Vermonters attending the University has, of course, meant a sharp reduction in revenue from tuition payments. This loss of revenue must be made up somehow, and I shall recommend that the Legislature study this matter carefully in order that the State may assume the share of this responsibility which can be justified without too great a tax burden.

Again, I recommend that state scholarships paid out of the General Fund be placed in the hands of a State Scholarship Board, to be used by the recipients at whatever Vermont college he or she chooses. I am in favor of continuing the present grants and scholarships to the other institutions of higher learning in the State.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

All of you know that Vermont has had a terrible record on the highways the past few months. The mounting highway death toll was in spite of many measures taken to curb this trend.

I urgently request this Legislature to give this subject its most careful attention. There is no single panacea which will stop traffic deaths. It is a nation-wide problem which has reached the proportions of a national disaster. We cannot ignore the needless loss of human lives. I recommend that this Legislature amend the laws relating to driver license suspensions so as to provide for longer suspension periods. I also urge that stiffer penalties be enacted for major violations of the traffic laws. I suggest a review of driver education in our schools with the object of expanding the program.

I recommend that the STATE POLICE force be maintained at its present strength, which includes 10 additional troopers approved last fall. I also believe this Legislature should give careful consideration to the setting up of a permanent state-wide Safety Council, in co-operation with private organizations to work on a long-range educational program of highway safety.



The MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT also should be given the right, I believe, to inaugurate a driver improvement program whereby drivers could be re-examined to determine if they are still fit to retain the privilege of having an operator's license.

## **BUILDING PROGRAM**

A number of state departments find they are faced with the problem of the lack of working space. Some of them are occupying rented space, which in the long run is costly to the taxpayers of Vermont.

The State Highway Department is badly in need of additional space and is now renting outside quarters. The Social Welfare Department also occupies considerable rented space in Montpelier.

The Unemployment Compensation Commission had completed plans this past summer to erect a building for its own use, to cost approximately a half-million dollars. Efforts have been made in several of the past sessions of the Legislature to provide for an addition to the State library, to take care of the expanding needs of the Library, the Free Public Library Commission, the Public Records Commission and the Vermont Historical Society—the cost of this addition being estimated at close to \$700,000.

Now we believe we have a feasible, economical solution to this critical problem.

The National Life Insurance Company needs more office space for its growing business and is considering the construction of new facilities in Montpelier, in which case its present building, adjacent to the State House, would be available. Their proposal to sell this building to the State for the sum of \$850,000 is considered to be a fraction of the value of the structure and a fraction of the cost to erect a similar building. I also might point out that the price is not much greater than the estimated cost of an addition to the State Library.

The Unemployment Compensation Commission has agreed to rent, in the event of purchase by the State, approximately 40 per cent or two floors, of the space in the National Life Insurance Building. The Commission, in turn, will pay out of funds derived from the federal government 40 per cent of the heat, lights, maintenance and other expenses incidental to the occupancy of the building.

The State Building Council is unanimous in the opinion that the State should acquire the National Life Insurance Company Building.

As governor I have given this proposal many hours of study and recommend that the State purchase this building; also that the Unemployment Compensation Commission be housed in it, along with certain departments now occupying the State Library Building and the present State Office Building. It is important that the Legislature consider and act on this proposition as soon as possible.

Also before you is a list of recommended proposals for new construction from the State Building Council, to which I urge you to give careful consideration.

## **WELFARE**

Vermont continues to give careful consideration to the welfare of all of its citizens.

Under present economic conditions and the extension of Social Security coverage and benefits, public assistance caseloads are on the downward trend, especially in Old-Age Assistance. During this administration, I am proud to say there has been the greatest improvement in the assistance programs since their inception more than twenty years ago.

Payments in Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind and Aid to Dependent Children have all been raised during the last two years and are all above the federal maximums. I believe the Legislature should approve a similar increase in the Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled program.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public health and the care of our chronically ill and aged are again fields where the State must accept a reasonable portion of responsibility. The value of the services rendered by the State Department of Health can never be measured in dollars, but we know it is of immense importance to all of the people of the State.

During the last year and a half since the program started, Vermont has been one of the leaders in the vaccination of young people under the Salk polio program. I believe the necessary money should be provided to carry on this program and that the public should take full advantage of it.

Another noteworthy achievement in the field of Public Health is the establishment of the State Rehabilitation Center at the DeGoesbriand Memorial Hospital, which will soon be under construction. This will serve as a pilot center for possible future expansion of the program.

The entire field of chronic illness and the aging is one which deserves the most careful consideration and study. I recommend that the State Department of Health should explore the extent of the state's responsibility in this matter. This should enable us to work out a definite program in this most important field of health in co-operation with the communities, voluntary agencies and the medical profession.

## **STATE EMPLOYEES**

Our state employees are giving fine service to the people of Vermont, and we must always be concerned with keeping their salaries and other benefits in line with what is fair and what our economy can support.

There is, I believe, one critical group of employees whose salaries and working hours must be adjusted if we are to continue to carry out important programs for the people of Vermont. These are the employees of our state institutions.

Faced with shortages of experienced technical and professional personnel, the staffs of our institutions have thus far responded to demands of the public for increased services by working extra long hours regularly. In our plans for expansion of treatment and corrective programs, we must realize the need for reducing the work week of institutional employees along with additions to the staff.

I therefore will recommend that funds be provided to allow these institutions to cut down the working hours of employees and to add the additional employees needed to cover this cutback in the work week.

While inequities should be eliminated, I do not believe that the State can afford at this time, nor can it justify, any across-the-board salary increases for all state employees. I believe such an across-the-board increase would be unfair and is unwarranted. I have already approved the upgrading of many positions within our regular classification plan, resulting in pay increases for a considerable number of employees. Also, many more employees have received salary increments within the classification plan. In a three-year period from 1953 to 1956 our state payroll has increased by 2 million dollars. I will speak further on this subject in the budget message.

## **NATIONAL GUARD**

The Vermont National Guard has attained an outstanding record during the past two years. It has increased its unit strength and, as a result of legislation approved in 1955, five new armories have been built or are in the process of construction. The Air National Guard has increased its facilities at Burlington. This last summer at Camp Drum the Vermont National Guard was given the highest rating of any defense group in training there. We have every reason to commend the officers and men of our National Guard for their fine performance.

## **CIVIL DEFENSE**

I believe it most important that the State continue to support a Civil Defense organization.

Also, I recommend that the Civil Defense law be revised to include a clause which will make it possible for this organization to be ready and able to act in case of natural disasters.

I thank all those Vermonters who are giving of their time to keep a good Civil Defense organization in being.

### **AVIATION**

The requirements of aviation in Vermont must be given increasing attention. The fact that about 60,000 persons traveled to or from the State last year on the airlines alone is a matter of great importance. In addition, the small plane is rapidly coming into everyday use as a mode of travel for business purposes. We must continue improving and developing airports and air navigational facilities within the State.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Our course for the future is set. To follow this course we must steer straight ahead, for only by going forward can progress be attained. In these days of dynamic growth throughout the nation, Vermont must stay abreast of the times or sink into the doldrums.

Yet we must proceed with caution lest we be caught up in the swirl of high and unjust taxation which could bring disastrous consequences to our economy. I therefore caution you to move steadily but at a safe pace.

There are many programs which will be presented to you for consideration during this Legislature. Some of these I recommend for your approval. However, it is for you to decide, as representatives of the people of Vermont, what we can afford in the next two years.

If, in your wisdom, you feel it is necessary to step up the rate of expansion beyond the point which I shall recommend in my budget message, then it is for you to decide also how to finance this additional expansion.

For the welfare of our people and the future of the State we cannot, and I shall not, attempt to attain progress under the disguise of long-term deficit financing. We must pay our way wherever possible so as not to burden our children and our children's children with an insurmountable task.

We must have the courage of our ancestors to proceed with determination and vigor. We must also have in mind the ability of our people to pay for the programs which we adopt.

Acting with the independence and prudent foresight which is our heritage, and with faith in the future, we shall march forward to build a richer and more glorious Vermont for all of our people.