

Inaugural address
of
Harold J. Arthur*
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*Harold W. Arthur became Governor when Governor Ernest Gibson resigned on January 16, 1950 to accept appointment as a U.S. District Judge.

Monday, January 16, 1950

Inaugural Address

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

Vermont's Constitution which I have sworn to uphold provides the mandate prompting the ceremonies on this occasion. Today, with the aid of Divine Providence, I am assuming the responsibilities devolving upon the highest office within the power of the electorate of our great State to bestow. For this signal honor and rare opportunity I am, indeed, humbly grateful. The decision at the polls in 1948 indicates the confidence of the voters and I pledge my continued effort to retain that confidence in assuming this sacred trust. Every Chief Executive must necessarily inherit unfinished business and I am no exception to the rule.

We have had a long line of good Governors, each burdened with the responsibilities appropriate to the times and each endeavoring to serve in accordance with the will of his constituents. I shall continue the progressive movement already under way in keeping with the Vermont tradition. Calvin Coolidge assures us that there is a sufficient store of the spirit of liberty in these green hills of Vermont to replenish the lack of it in all other parts of the land. This same philosophy can well be applied to thrift and ours is an opportunity to promote good, economic and efficient government.

I assume my new duties unfettered by any pledges to, and uncontrolled by, any group or individual. After years of legislative experience, study of government and constant observation of public opinion, I have formed definite views on important issues and the kind of leadership Vermont needs. As time passes in our constantly progressive stride and as necessity requires, these opinions will be made known.

The financial condition of the State is reported as excellent. If the predictions made become a reality next June 30th, I am confident that we may realize the various goals set by the last legislature in its endeavors to improve roads, schools, health, assistance for the aged, reforestation, stream purification and other developments with an additional direct benefit to the people by way of reduction in taxes. Such an accomplishment must necessarily be supported wholeheartedly by the coordinated efforts and teamwork of all our officials and employees. Only thus may we realize more service for each dollar of the taxpayers money. Cutting needless spending, overlapping of department functions and eliminating useless labor will be constant aims during my administration.

I sincerely hope that it may be my privilege to make appropriate recommendations to the Legislature of 1951. The loyal cooperation of every person is earnestly solicited in the interest of the general welfare and good government and I emphasize that the door of the Governor's Office will be open to all of the people. In accordance with the Constitution and the laws of Vermont, with the help of Almighty God, I will endeavor to press forward with a strong heart and courage to do the right.