

Farewell address

of

Harold J. Arthur

As it appears in the

Journal

of the

JOINT ASSEMBLY

BIENNIAL SESSION

1951

Thursday, January 4, 1951

Farewell Address

Members of the General Assembly:

Traditionally, Vermont governors, upon retiring from office, offer to the Legislature a report or review of state government activities undertaken and pursued during their administrations. In doing so it has become the practice to make some specific suggestions which the retiring executive believes might be constructively helpful to the legislative body, resulting from his experiences in discharging the executive functions and responsibilities devolving upon him by virtue of the Constitution and subsequent statutory requirements.

One short year ago it became my honor and privilege to be elevated from the office of lieutenant governor and take over the reins of government as chief executive. Upon induction into office I realized fully, not only the importance of my duties and my tasks, but also the fact that I was assuming in mid-term an administration the policies of which had already been established and in operation for some time. Aware of this fact, it was my obligation, as I saw it, to carry on, insofar as it was possible, the policies and programs of the unfinished regime. This I have tried faithfully to do.

With a view to avoiding departmental disruption, I have made no changes in appointive personnel within the administration I inherited, and have maintained throughout my tenure the open door policy, making it possible at all times for any and all to have ready access to the Executive Chamber for discussion with the Governor of any question or problem.

Five major matters, which I found upon my desk as unfinished business, have been disposed of or have been completed this year. On September 1, 1950, the Merit System for employees was put into effect, a matter that has been under consideration by several legislatures and governors since it was first recommended by Governor William H. Wills in his inaugural message in 1941. He also recommended at that same time the construction of a new state office building. This was brought to fruition in 1949 when the present imposing and modern building was dedicated by my predecessor as a memorial to Vermonters who have gone forth from time to time in defense of our Country. In view of this beautiful structure having emerged from the original proposal of Governor Wills, it would seem fitting and proper that a plaque appropriately inscribed to his memory should grace the building in some suitable place.

The Wilder Dam project, an issue which had been under violent controversy since 1942, has been finally settled, and two departmental investigations, that of the Highway Department and the Liquor Control Board, conducted by special legislative investigating committees under authorization of the 1949 Assembly, have been completed. In regard to the Wilder Dam, it was not achieved without the sacrifice of some fertile farm land, but in the long run the benefits to the State and its people to be derived from the generation of much needed electric power will greatly outweigh the value of the soil lost by flooding.

The problem of constructing a state health laboratory is still unsolved because of the prolonged deadlock between the two commissions charged with its construction. However, two alternative architectural designs and plans are now ready for presentation to this legislature. It is hoped that adequate legislation will be enacted so that speedy progress will be forthcoming in the construction of this much-needed health facility.

AGRICULTURE

Re-emphasizing what may be a self-evident fact that sound economic life in Vermont depends heavily upon a sound and prosperous agriculture, I feel that no opportunity must be overlooked to present agriculture in its true importance to all of our people.

While the past year has witnessed large agricultural production, rising costs have in many cases resulted in too narrow margins for producers and have increased debt loads.

General agricultural practices in Vermont have sound foundations. It is of vital importance to continue to stress wider adoption of these practices which have been sponsored by our leaders. In meeting our immediate needs, we must guard against too heavy exploitation of our natural resources.

Many Vermont farmers suffered grievous damages in the recent wind storm. All Vermont has extended sincere sympathy and action, already underway, should be continued to assure rehabilitation of storm victims.

Careful consideration of the needs of the Vermont Department of Agriculture should be given. Its program, largely of a regulatory nature, provides very definite protection to our agriculture. The control of livestock diseases as provided by this program is, of course, absolutely essential to the operation of our dairy and livestock industry. In this connection it should be noted that the Department's plan of Brucellosis control has shown marked progress within the past year and merits full cooperation and support. Milk and dairy inspection and the enforcement of laws and regulations affecting grades of farm products, such as maple, and improving their marketability are likewise of prime importance. The poultry improvement program, carried out by the department, is doing much to foster this growing industry in the state and of direct service to all the state is the enforcement of weights and measures laws and regulations, a function of the department. The control of plant pests, another project, always of essential value in crop protection, has taken on added importance as the agency designated to combat the Dutch elm disease.

I believe these programs are sound and are administered by a capable, experienced staff worthy of continued support.

We can justly boast of the production records established by our farmers at all periods of great national need. In making these records farmers in many cases worked beyond their strength and many suffered impaired health. These effects may become apparent as they strive after little let down to meet again national emergency conditions.

Wartime has always meant a strong demand for farm products at favorable prices. At the same time it creates shortages of manpower, electricity, equipment and essential supplies together with high costs and often unreasonable controls.

I feel convinced that history warrants confidence in our farmers capably to meet the challenge of the future, which, we must all acknowledge, looks perilous for freedom.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The problem of adequate secondary education has been increasingly on the minds of the people of the state during the past year. We want conditions which make it possible for every Vermont youth to secure an education suited to his needs and capacities. The Department of Education has explored the problem with lay citizens in meetings which have covered every part of the state. As a result 21 areas have been tentatively identified, each one of which could economically establish a suitably varied high school program. But these include less than half the area of the state. More work yet needs to be done with specialized assistance before we get the answer to the high school problem over the state as a whole. Every young person should be provided with the opportunity of obtaining a high school education as well as graded school.

The Department has also been active in helping teachers and superintendents keep the school curriculum up to date. During 1950 it has cooperated with other agencies and groups interested in vitalizing the curriculum in alcohol education, aviation, conservation, driver training and United Nations.

We cannot have good schools without prepared teachers. Right now we have more young people taking the regular four-year program of teacher preparation than ever before. But there is present need for approximately forty per cent more. Under these conditions every facility we have for training teachers must be used to the maximum. The state's long-run policy for teacher education needs to be cleared up in an authoritative manner. The sooner that steps can be taken toward this end, the better for all concerned.

In its effort to improve the health of our people the Health Commission has been confronted with many perplexing problems. Poor laboratory facilities have added to its difficulties in carrying out the provisions of the law. The responsibilities resting upon the Commission in meeting the requirements imposed by the Statutes

have been increasing over the years and these responsibilities will continue to grow as we advance into the last half of this century.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Payments of old age assistance, aid to dependent children and aid to the blind have been on a current basis since October 1, 1949. This means that for the longest period in the fifteen year history of these programs there have been no waiting lists of applicants whose eligibility for assistance has been established and that Federal requirements in this respect have been met. This has not been easily achieved.

To avoid an overall 10 percent reduction in all assistance checks beginning July 1, 1950, the department has been forced to overspend its budget and incur a deficiency which will amount to about \$130,000.00 for the fiscal period. Demands for additional funds to meet the increasing living costs are continually being made and should be a matter for your serious consideration.

A great forward step in alleviating the long existing settlement problem has been accomplished during the past eighteen months. Children from non-settled families, committed to the Department of Social Welfare since July 1, 1949, are accepted at full State expense when properly certified by the towns and cities. The local municipalities have also been relieved from responsibility for financial participation in payments of aid to dependent children in non-settled families.

The number of committed children has been reduced from 1,154 to 974 during the past two years—a reduction of 16 percent.

The efficiency and economy claimed for integration of all social welfare services and function is now a part of the record. Public Assistance programs in Vermont are being administered for 4 percent, virtually the lowest per case cost in the nation. During the past fiscal year the Department of Social Welfare reduced its administrative cost by 14 percent, an accomplishment worthy of commendation.

CIVIL DEFENSE

Recent international events and the increased tempo in military programs and civil defense should prompt us to consider carefully legislative action on matters which involve the safety of our people and their property. General disaster in our neighboring states can suddenly swell the flow of families from the urban areas into so-called shelter areas, of which Vermont is typical. We may not need to arrange immediately for the care or shelter of thousands of families, but under our present laws the problem of caring for a limited number of additional families in each of our small towns will present an urgent and direct need for some type of financial assistance.

The additional burden of sheltering and caring for even relatively few family groups in many of our towns can result in financial requirements beyond the ability of the community to provide. The gradual drift of people, who have substantial properties and incomes, to summer or winter homes in Vermont does not appear to create the problem, but any general movement of those who enjoy only a working wage or salary, with their families, and with the attendant financial and social adjustments, will require some legislation beyond that which we now have providing for the relief of unfortunate persons by the several cities and towns. No doubt this Legislature will consider the problem and provide legislation and the means for equalizing the load which may be cast on certain of our cities or towns in the event such an emergency situation is suddenly thrust upon us.

NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard of our State has made excellent progress, and the elements of the 43rd Infantry Division, the 172nd Infantry and the 206th Field Artillery Battalion were alerted on August 1st of this year while we were in training at Pine Camp, New York. These Units were ordered into Federal Service September 5th and have been in training at Camp Pickett, Virginia, since that time. It is interesting to note that the 43rd Infantry Division; the famous "Red" Wing Victory Division of World War II, was one of the first four National Guard Divisions in our Country to be ordered to active duty. We were fortunate in being able to visit the Vermont troops at Camp Pickett early in November, and were favorably impressed.

Recently the 134th Fighter Squadron and other elements of the Vermont Air National Guard were alerted and will be inducted into Federal Service the first of next month. The Vermont Air Squadron was also one of the early ones to be ordered to duty which speaks highly for the training and efficiency of the National Guard of our State. If called upon, we know that our troops will keep up the traditions handed down from the days of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys.

Plans for the State Guard have been revised and much work has been done in the selection of key personnel. In the light of critical conditions in the World today, this Legislature will undoubtedly take early action authorizing the organizing of a State Guard.

WARTIME ACTS

During the last war, we experienced the demand for certain enactments at frequent intervals which necessitated special legislative sessions. I have given some study and consideration to this problem and believe we should at this time make a careful review of the various war acts which were required only a short time ago. Most of our war legislation has expired by its own terms. It could well be suggested that our previous plans for voting by those in the armed forces, for civil defense and disaster relief, and the several war-time measures which may be classed as licensing matters, be re-enacted with some provision to make them effective upon the occurrence of acts of war, disaster, or upon proclamation of the Governor with the approval of the Emergency Board or such other state agency as might seem advisable. This same principle could well be applied to our laws relating to soldiers' bonus payments. Control of the affairs of the State ought to remain directly in the people and any emergency or disaster legislation which, by its very nature, grants extraordinary powers to the executive and administrative officers of the State should be limited to a period which will permit review by successive Legislatures.

During this extremely critical period in world history the fact must be faced that, wholly aside from military acts of aggression, the forces of Communism, through insidious falsehoods, are waging continuous conflict to conquer the minds, the allegiances, the very souls of men. It behooves us to consider the advisability of appropriate legislation to curb Communistic activities and halt the infiltration and spread of propaganda and ideologies destructive to Democracy and freedom within our own Green Mountain state.

INSTITUTIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Vermont is fortunate in having an effective, well-staffed Department of Institutions and Corrections. The key positions in this Department are occupied by individuals with particular training and skills in the correctional field. Recognizing that as yet there is no panacea which is guaranteed to cure crime, and that we are dealing with inadequacies associated with criminal tendencies which are peculiar to certain types of individuals, it is difficult to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture of the dynamic characteristics of the individual offenders. Nevertheless, we are continually striving to rehabilitate the individual by keeping pace with modern practices in the institutions and in the field of probation and parole. The 1947 Legislature created a Board of Institutions and Corrections, which serves, along with the performance of other duties, as an Advisory Parole Board to the Governor for the penal institutions, and to the Commissioner concerning discharges from the Weeks School. The methods and procedure of the Board in this capacity have resulted in a sound parole policy protecting the safety of the public and at the same time the best interests of the prisoner.

While prison population throughout the country is on the increase, Vermont has been expanding its probation and parole services, effectively rehabilitating an increased number of offenders by treatment and supervision in the community at a minimum expenditure.

VERMONT STATE PRISON AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR MEN

An Act was passed by the Vermont General Assembly in 1807 which authorized the building of a state prison. The prison was practically completed in 1809 and the first commitments to it were made the same year. In 1919 a law was passed which provided that it also be used as a House of Correction.

Colonel John L. Ferguson, a typical soldier, was appointed warden on June 1, 1947. A man of strong character, Col. Ferguson pursued a true course and progressed from private in the army of the United States in

World War I to become full Colonel of a regiment which served in the European Theatre of World War II. His qualities as a leader have been exemplified so many times as Warden of the oldest prison in the country. In September 1950 he was given Military Leave and is now commanding the 172 Infantry, Vermont's own regiment.

This institution has not been favored with building funds as have other State Institutions of newer vintage. A Pasteurizing plant is needed at the prison. This is the only state institution not equipped with this essential health measure. A sprinkler system to avert disaster in case of fire should be a priority.

The state service known as Vermont Institutional Industries has expanded since its creation in 1987 to nearly a hundred thousand dollar industry. Because prison labor is used, manufacturing is limited to the State or its political subdivisions. This rehabilitation service nets a saving of a good many thousands of dollars to the State of Vermont and her cities and towns.

The fundamental purpose or function of Prison Industries is—through trade training—to establish habits of industry, to rehabilitate and reclaim the largest percentage of State Prison inmates. The outstanding advantages of Prison industries, are:

1. They are maintained on a fully self-supporting basis which is vitally important when funds for other forms of rehabilitation are not available—as is generally the case.
2. These industries are carefully patterned after industries on the outside to which the prisoner will be returned when paroled or released.
3. Prison Industries compel or permit prisoners to produce many of their own requirements such as work clothes, underwear and canned goods, to mention a few, and thereby pay a portion, at least, of the costs they impose on the rest of society.
4. Prisoners are given a thorough trade training in all phases of one or more of the seven Prison Industries now operating at Vermont State Prison.

An additional building for the Industrial shop, in my judgment, should have high priority to care for the expansion of this service program which has already outgrown the existing facilities.

WEEKS SCHOOL

The Legislature of 1865 passed a law establishing the Vermont Reform School. A farm in Waterbury was purchased for this purpose and additional buildings were erected. In 1874, however, a disastrous fire swept away the entire plant. A special session of the Legislature was called and laws were passed establishing the school at Vergennes and providing for the admission of girls. The name was later changed to Vermont Industrial School.

During his life, Governor John E. Weeks had a strong personal attachment induced by sympathetic understanding of the school. It was altogether fitting and proper that the 1937 Legislature should enact into law Number 137 effecting from passage on April 9, 1937 that the school was named Weeks School in honor of that great and good man.

The date of April 18, 1949, brought good fortune to Weeks School in the appointment of Harrison C. Greenleaf as its superintendent. Mr. Greenleaf has had an enviable record of achievement in newspaper, state government and juvenile fields. "Weeks" is a cottage-type school, requiring a considerably larger staff and more expensive to run than a centralized barrack type of school. Students eligible are given opportunity to attend Vergennes High School. Elementary subjects are taught at the institution. Vocational training, including the following is emphasized: printing, agriculture, cooking, music, homemaking, arts, crafts, waitress and laundry work. Physical training, both correctional and recreational, is carried on.

The policy of allowing children the privilege of making community contacts while being cared for aids in preventing them from becoming institutionalized. The cruel monotony of institutional regimentation is, under the present administration, being broken by active participation in inter-community athletics, frequent home visits, and attendance at community affairs in Vergennes and the neighboring cities and towns. The widening

range of activities in this School keeps the children busy every waking hour. The constructive work in helping the students to learn the art of living with their neighbors, now being done by Mr. Greenleaf and his staff, is to be highly commended.

WOMEN'S REFORMATORY

The Women's Reformatory has this year reached the twenty-ninth anniversary of its founding. It has been a period of progress characterized by the same ideals and efficiency which marked the administration of Lena C. Ross, Superintendent from the day of its founding until May 1936. Her work at Riverside Reformatory received wide recognition in our own country and was commended internationally. As her health failed she chose as her assistant, Helen M. Koltonski, a woman whose loyal support was unflinching to Miss Ross. The Department was fortunate in having Miss Koltonski ready to assume the position of Superintendent, continuing many of the same ideas and methods of her predecessor and keenly alive to the need of desirable innovations.

So many cases are sent to this institution requiring medical and hospital attention it is often impossible to make a prophecy or estimate of future appropriation needs. It is not uncommon to spend \$200.00 on a single operation to free an inmate of moral defilement. The costs for operations and hospital treatments have run as high as \$1,200.00 for a single case during the past year.

My observation is that this institution is run in a skillful manner. Miss Koltonski has sent earnings in the amount of \$13,867.29 to the General Fund. Acknowledgment is made to a further amount of \$11,354.50 which has been saved the State in office rentals for five State Departments now housed within this institution.

HIGHWAYS

Our State Highway Department has been operating during the past two years under some rather severe handicaps. Since the end of World War II state appropriations have been insufficient to match available Federal Aid construction funds. Maintenance requirements still are showing the effects of war restrictions. Engineering personnel has been difficult to obtain and keep.

In spite of diverse handicaps, I consider that our State Highway Board, and personnel all along the line, have administered the work of the Department in an expeditious manner and in the best interests of the State. I have traveled on highways in many states, and in other countries, and have passed over the greater portion of Vermont's approximately 14,000 miles during the passed year. In comparison I believe our accomplishments in highway development have been creditable, and as long as we keep administrative costs at a minimum, utilizing every available dollar for actual construction and maintenance on all routes of travel, our Highway Department will continue to enjoy its present rating, as determined by the firm of experts, Bigelow, Kent, and Willard, in its report submitted after thorough investigation—that of being “fundamentally sound”.

The year 1950 witnessed a record of more than 125,000 motor vehicle registrations. Highway business must necessarily become increasingly important.

AVIATION

Aviation has continued to progress through improvement of airport facilities which are basically essential to any future plans in this field. Through the federal-state-local formula of financial participation, the Burlington Airport was further improved by the installation of high intensity lighting on one runway, and reconstruction of a part of the north-south runway.

Acceptance was made of the new Administration Building which has been under construction for a year and a half. Several impartial observers have stated that this is the best designed building of its type in the east. Partly as a result of improvements made under this program during the past several years, this airport is now under consideration by the U.S. Air Force as a possible location for a major base in the near future.

Under the same financial program, needed improvements are being made at the Barre-Montpelier Airport, and at St. Johnsbury. This latter field was re-dedicated with the Lightplane Airlift, the first of its kind which is known to have been planned in the interest of civil defense. The use of planes was contributed by the pilot-

owners around the state. The operation received nation-wide attention, and accounts were carried in metropolitan newspapers and national aviation magazines.

Aircraft were again used as a means of spotting forest fires and of preventing the starting of outdoor fires during dry periods. This system of aerial patrol has proved an effective supplement to other means of forest fire control and prevention. Waterfowl census and beaver counts were also taken by aerial observation.

The use of aircraft in agricultural spraying and dusting is increasing especially among our orchardists, with the work carried on under the new regulations established by the Aeronautics Commission.

A step forward in both education and aviation within this state was taken in the form of a two-week summer Aviation Workshop at Johnson College for elementary and high school teachers.

It is estimated that a total of about 52,200 passengers departed or arrived at airports served by commercial airlines during the year.

Some of my most pleasant hours have been spent aloft with our State pilots Knapp and Hurd where I have enjoyed the beautiful panorama during the various seasons and have made use of the facilities available at eight of the twenty-one public airports in Vermont. These pleasant hours of speedy travel will be missed. This is a fast growing enterprise making unbelievable progress in the first half of the century and we should do all possible to keep abreast with other States in promoting this modern mode of transportation.

FISH AND GAME SERVICE

The year of 1950 was a record License Sale year for the Fish and Game Service and one of record activity and accomplishments.

Considerable land acquisition and development work was done on lands owned and acquired. The Sandbar Waterfowl Area of 1,400 acres was a major project. There was a 550 foot earth filled dike completed to control water levels on 150 acres of marsh for waterfowl and muskrats. A second 1,400 foot dike is nearing completion in the Cranberry Bog section and this will be most attractive to waterfowl. Other waterfowl management areas include, a 1,600 acre area on Dead Creek in Panton, a 350 acre area in Ferrisburg and Keenan Pond and a small area in Topsham. This work is and will be financed by Federal Aid and Wildlife funds, 75% of which is contributed by the U.S. Government.

Duck banding operations were increased and over 1,000 ducks were banded along Lake Champlain. Houses were erected for wood ducks at Sandbar and at Newport with a record hatch of 85% of the 919 eggs deposited in these boxes. More checks were made of waterfowl hunters to get kill data, sex, age and band returns of ducks taken.

There was the first beaver season in fifty years held in 1950 and 1081 animals were taken. The population has continued to increase and by proper management can continue to provide a significant crop.

New oil heating systems were installed at Salisbury, Canaan and Roxbury. A walk-in cooler was completed at Canaan similar to the ones at Bennington and Roxbury. These units make economical purchases of meat possible at real savings. At Morgan a new 32 x 40' building was erected.

At Bald Hill two raceways were constructed and 40,000 salmon were reared. The ponds were used and produced over 1,100 pounds of trout from a start of 58 pounds of 1½" fingerlings. More raceways for salmon and a residence are being designed with hopes that building will be possible in 1951.

We have an excellent warden force and this year it was used more for conservation, working with youth groups in several sections of the state. The Service worked more closely with the State Education Department and the University of Vermont in order to increase the conservation education possibilities at all levels.

With increased federal aid money to be available for fisheries work, it is hoped to step-up a stream acquisition and improvement plan.

A preparedness program now underway contemplates greater attention to the conservation of all available resources.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

The financial condition of our State is impressively sound, and, to use the term of our investment friends, "Triple A". As of June 30, 1950, the records in the Treasurer's office indicated that the year closed with cash, temporary investments, and advances on hand totaling \$7,377,893.87. Of this amount the greater portion was earmarked for the new state buildings and for bridges. The fiscal year closed with an unappropriated surplus of some \$319,000.00 in the General Fund.

Under the provisions of Number 46 of the Acts of 1949 the Legislature authorized the issuance of serial bonds in the amount of \$1,534,000.00 for the construction of certain state buildings. By number 47 of the same Acts the Legislature authorized issuance of \$2,800,000.00 of serial bonds in order that new bridges might be provided the citizens of the state.

We were able to issue these bonds at the most favorable rate the State has enjoyed, and more favorable than many other states have experienced. The coupon rate is one and one-tenth per cent and we received a premium of \$8,407.96.

The State has three major tax collecting agencies. It is my opinion that greater efficiency and saving could well be effected if these departments were combined and under the jurisdiction of the Treasurer.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

It is my opinion that there are altogether too numerous boards and commissions, many having conflicting and overlapping authorities. Other states have effected substantial savings in streamlining their governments by reducing the number of departments and commissions without retarding the progress of government. Some of our most conscientious board members like the personnel in our State Guard units serve without pay and I believe that many civic-minded and patriotic citizens are ready to serve in various capacities without remuneration. I cite for example the Personnel Board and the Commission on Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The money spent for Interim investigating Committees would be of greater benefit if used to meet the manifest needs at the overcrowded State Hospital in Waterbury, the Brandon State School for Feeble Minded and aid our State Sanitoriums. Interim investigations obviously have a decided influence upon the morale of those connected with the department under scrutiny. Investigation should be completed during the legislative session. Every department is equipped to furnish the necessary information promptly, and the legislature should be brought up-to-date regarding the condition of all departments and phases of government. Such knowledge is of material help in formulating policies for the ensuing biennium, the basis on which the chief executive should proceed to carry out the will of the General Assembly without interruption.

The law requires the Sergeant-at-Arms to inspect all state buildings semi-annually and to make recommendations for repairs. The Statute omits provisions for compliance with such recommendations. Funds appropriated for repairs are often diverted to other purposes detrimental to property maintenance. The Building Council of which the Sergeant-at-Arms is a member, charged with new construction might well be the agency entrusted with the responsibilities for the upkeep of all State buildings.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments has rendered a report to be considered by you. As a result of your deliberations you may make changes in the organic law of the state. Safeguards with which our Constitution is surrounded should be preserved and any recommended changes should have the most serious consideration. By my experience in state government, extending through twenty years, I am inclined to believe that the state would greatly benefit if the term of chief executive were extended to four years without the right of succession.

CONCLUSION

This moment culminates an ambition and a period of my life stemming from an inspiration quickened in this very hall thirty years ago when, as page boy in the Assembly, I listened attentively to the retiring address of

Governor Percival W. Clement. At this point I wish to express my appreciation to all living ex-Governors, from each of whom I have sought advice and counsel which at all times has been cheerfully given. Especially it is my desire to acknowledge publicly the help and encouragement received from former Governor Stanley C. Wilson who, because of his nearness to the State House, has been generous with his helpful counsel.

I am indeed grateful for the good fortune which has been mine, for the encouragement and support of many loyal friends, for the cooperation of all state employees, for the privileges and opportunities so well provided by our system of free enterprise and our American way of life. And, last but by no means least, I am grateful to Almighty God for his Divine guidance and protection throughout these exciting and uncertain years. We have confidence that you, in your judgment and wisdom, based upon your experiences as members of a liberty-loving and free society, will hold steadfast to the tried and true provisions of our Constitution and our Christian philosophy, ever remembering the homely tenet that—"that government is best which governs least."

The Governor having completed the reading of his message, was escorted from the hall by the committee appointed by the Chair.

The Joint Assembly dissolved.

HOWARD E. ARMSTRONG,
Secretary of State, Clerk