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January 10, 1985

INAUGURAL SPEECH

MADELEINE MAY KUNIN

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FRIENDS.

AS I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU -- THE SOLEMN WORDS OF THE OATH OF OFFICE ECHOING STILL IN MY MIND -- WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE OPENED ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE PROUD AND INDEPENDENT HISTORY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

I AM THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR OF VERMONT, THE THIRD DEMOCRAT SINCE THE CIVIL WAR AND THE SECOND GOVERNOR OF EUROPEAN BIRTH.

BUT I DO NOT STAND HERE ALONE.

I STAND WITH MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN, WITH MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WHO ARE A SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH -- AND MY JOY.

THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT ARE ESSENTIAL TO ME.

I STAND WITH THE MEMORY OF MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH ME -- MY MOTHER, MY AUNT, MY GRANDMOTHER --- THE STRONG WOMEN WHO COULD NEVER HAVE DREAMT I WOULD BE IN THIS PLACE ON THIS DAY, BUT WHO, THROUGH THE COURAGE OF THEIR OWN LIVES, GIVE ME THE STAMINA TO STAND AS TALL AS THEY DID IN THEIR TIME.

IT WAS MY MOTHER, WHO AS A WIDOW, CAME TO AMERICA FROM SWITZERLAND WITH TWO SMALL CHILDREN, AGED 6 AND 10, IN 1940, AS WAR WAS SPREADING OVER EUROPE.

IN ADDITION TO A LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, SHE CARRIED WITH HER TO THESE SHORES A LIMITLESS DREAM OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY COULD OFFER HER AND HER CHILDREN.

AND SHE TALKED TO US ABOUT THE DREAM, BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL MANY YEARS LATER, THAT I FULLY UNDERSTOOD HER.

HER DREAM ENABLED ME TO STRIVE, TO REACH, AND TO TOUCH SOME HORIZONS I WAS CERTAIN WERE BEYOND MY GRASP.

---THAT DREAM MUST CONTINUE TO BECKON TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

Transcript of Madeleine Kunin's speech at her first inauguration as Governor of Vermont, January 10, 1985. From the Madeleine May Kunin Papers, Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont.

I THANK THIS COUNTRY, WHICH WELCOMED ME HERE, GREETED BY THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, WHICH, DESPITE LAYERS OF SCAFFOLDING, CONTINUES TO SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE, JUST AS IT ONCE DID FOR US, AND FOR THE GENERATIONS OF IRISH, ITALIANS, POLISH, FRENCH, AND CANADIANS, WHO CAME TO WORK IN THE GRANITE SHEDS, WOOLEN MILLS, RAILROADS, FARMS AND FACTORIES OF VERMONT.

MY IMMIGRANT ROOTS, WHILE MORE RECENT THAN MOST, ARE NOT EXTRAORDINARY.

IT IS THAT IMMIGRANT SPIRIT OF HOPE WHICH I WISH TO BRING TO STATE GOVERNMENT --- A SPIRIT WHICH INSTILLS IN OUR CHILDREN THE BELIEF THAT ANYONE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING IN THIS COUNTRY WITH HARD WORK, AN EDUCATION, AND A FAIR CHANCE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU ARE GOING.

THAT HAS BEEN THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY OUR COUNTRY AND BY OUR STATE. AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO HELP BRING THAT ABOUT.

WE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED FOR OURSELVES THE HARSH THEORY OF "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST."

SOCIAL DARWINISM WAS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED IN THE YEARS OF THIS COUNTRY'S EVOLUTION WHEN WE OPTED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS, FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

BUT THE DEBATE ABOUT THE PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS LIVELY AT THE TIME OUR CONSTITUTION WAS FRAMED, HAS IN FACT BECOME MORE VIGOROUS TODAY.

HOW MUCH ARE WE OUR BROTHER AND SISTER'S KEEPER?

IT IS A QUESTION WHICH WE MUST ASK OF OURSELVES, AND THEN, ANSWER THROUGH OUR PUBLIC POLICY DECISIONS.

FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, I BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE THIS NATION HAS BEEN GENEROUS TO ME, IN PROVIDING ME WITH A PUBLIC EDUCATION, WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE MY POTENTIAL, THAT I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE BACK.

WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE BACK.

AND WHAT WE CAN GIVE, IS THE SAME CHANCE THAT WE WERE GIVEN.

THERE ARE MANY VERMONTERS WHO ARE WAITING FOR THAT CHANCE.

FOR SOME, IT IS A SECOND CHANCE.

Transcript of Madeleine Kunin's speech at her first inauguration as Governor of Vermont, January 10, 1985. From the Madeleine May Kunin Papers, Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont.

A SECOND CHANCE TO GET AN EDUCATION.

A SECOND CHANCE TO GET OFF WELFARE. A CHANCE TO OBTAIN CHILD CARE, A CHANCE FOR JOB TRAINING.

WE KNOW THAT FOR EACH GENERATION IT MUST BE DIFFERENT. IN THE 60'S, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT GOVERNMENT COULD SOLVE ANY SOCIAL PROBLEM, AS LONG AS THERE WAS MONEY ENOUGH TO DO IT. THESE BELIEFS MUST BE TEMPERED, RE-EXAMINED, AND IN SOME CASES, SET ASIDE.

IN 1985, WE MUST DO IT OUR WAY.

AND OUR WAY HAS TO BE MORE SELECTIVE, MORE CREATIVE.

WE KNOW TODAY THAT FOR PEOPLE TO BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE, THEY HAVE TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS AND WORK FOR SUCCESS, INSTEAD OF MERELY BEING ON THE RECEIVING END OF PUBLIC GENEROSITY.

AND WE KNOW THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST ALSO BE INVOLVED. GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO IT ALONE.

BUT WE ALSO KNOW, JUST AS I DID AS A CHILD, THAT WHAT THIS NATION MUST CONTINUE TO OFFER TO THE NEXT GENERATION, IS BOTH HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY.

WITHOUT BOTH, WE NOT ONLY DENY THE NEXT GENERATION A CHANCE TO REACH ITS FULL HEIGHT AND BREADTH, WE ALSO DENY OURSELVES OUR OWN HUMANITY.

AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, I RECOGNIZE THAT I WAS ABLE TO RAISE MY RIGHT HAND BEFORE YOU THIS AFTERNOON, ONLY BECAUSE SO MANY WOMEN HAD RAISED THEIR VOICES, LONG BEFORE MY WORDS WERE SPOKEN.

IT WAS SUSAN B. ANTHONY, AFTER ALL, WHO TOLD US, "FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE".

AND IF WE LISTEN, WE CAN HEAR THE VOICES OF VERMONT FARM WOMEN, WHO IN THE PIONEER DAYS OF THIS STATE, WORKED THE SOIL WITH ROUGH RED HANDS, ALONG SIDE THE MEN WHO CLEARED THE LAND.

I STAND HERE BECAUSE OF THE WOMEN WHO WORKED IN THE MILLS IN WINOOSKI, WHO TAUGHT IN THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSES IN ALBURG, AND WHO ENTERED THIS HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES IN MONTPELIER BEFORE ME.

CLARINA HOWARD NICHOLS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SPEAK IN THIS CHAMBER, GREW FAINT FROM FRIGHT WHEN SHE SPOKE IN FAVOR OF A BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN 1852.

Transcript of Madeleine Kunin's speech at her first inauguration as Governor of Vermont, January 10, 1985. From the Madeleine May Kunin Papers, Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont.

IT WAS EDNA L. BEARD, FROM ORANGE, WHOSE PORTRAIT HANGS OUTSIDE THESE DOORS, WHO BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1921. PEALS OF LAUGHTER ROSE FROM THE FLOOR WHEN FINALLY A MAN FOUND THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE SEAT NEXT TO HERS.

SHE WAS ALONE. I AM NOT.

I, AND THE 44 WOMEN IN THE HOUSE AND 4 WOMEN IN THE SENATE, STAND HERE IN THE SHADOW OF CONSUELO NORTHROP BAILEY, THE ONLY WOMAN TO BECOME SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND THE FIRST TO BE ELECTED LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

WE ALL PAVED THE WAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, KNOWINGLY AND UNKNOWINGLY.

AS A DEMOCRAT, I HAVE A SPECIAL BOND WITH THE TWO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS WHO ARE HERE, PHILIP H. HOFF AND THOMAS P. SALMON. BOTH SERVED THIS STATE WITH DISTINCTION.

AS I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU AS YOUR NEW GOVERNOR, I WALK IN THE PATH CHARTED FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS BY GOVERNOR RICHARD A. SNELLING -- A MAN WHO HAS SHOWN BOTH STRENGTH AND COURAGE IN LEADING US.

I WILL BUILD ON HIS FOUNDATION.

WE ALL STEP ON GROUND THAT HAS BEEN WALKED BEFORE, EVEN AS WE MAKE OUR OWN IMPRINTS, AS I INTEND TO MAKE MINE.

I STAND HERE TODAY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE VERMONT MEN AND WOMEN WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR MY OWN ELECTION, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE 233,753 VERMONTERS WHO WENT TO THE POLLS LAST NOVEMBER.

ONCE AGAIN, WE SHOWED OUR FINE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT.

REGARDLESS OF THE TIDE, WE SET OUR OWN COURSE, AS VERMONTERS HAVE ALWAYS DONE.

AND NOW WE MUST ASK:

WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

WHAT IS MY MANDATE AS YOUR GOVERNOR?

THAT TODAY, IS MY TASK TO DEFINE.

I HAVE FOUR GOALS:

- A STRONG ECONOMY,

- A FIRST RATE EDUCATION SYSTEM,

- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF,

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- AND A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, WE MUST ADD A FIFTH OBJECTIVE--TO RETAIN AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH IN GOVERNMENT ITSELF BY MAKING VERMONT GOVERNMENT BOTH MORE OPEN AND MORE RESPONSIVE.

VERMONTERS ALWAYS HAVE HAD FAITH IN OUR ABILITY TO GOVERN OURSELVES.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN AND MUST BE A FORCE FOR GOOD.

WE KNOW THAT STATE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE TO GET THE JOB DONE.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VERMONTER'S VIEW OF MONTPELIER AND THE NATIONAL VIEW OF WASHINGTON.

IN VERMONT, GOVERNMENT IS NOT "THEY".

IT IS "US".

BECAUSE WE ARE SMALL, WE MEET ONE ANOTHER ON THE MAIN STREET OF TOWN WHERE WE DO, IN FACT, DISCUSS THE ISSUES OF THE DAY.

THERE IS MORE TRUST HERE THAN IN THE REST OF THE NATION IN BOTH THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND IN THOSE WHO CARRY IT OUT.

BUT EVEN HERE, WHERE WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT, WE CAN DO BETTER.

I AM COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A NEW LEVEL OF OPENNESS, ACCESSIBILITY, AND RESPONSIVENESS IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

IT WILL OCCUR ON ALL LEVELS.

THE HIGHWAY ENGINEER WHO DESIGNS A LOCAL ROAD, THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR WHO TESTS WATER QUALITY, AND THE TAX DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO ASKS YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE -- EACH ONE OF THEM WILL MAKE A RENEWED EFFORT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC TO THE VERY BEST OF HIS AND HER ABILITY.

AND WE, IN TURN, MUST RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE DIFFICULTY OF THEIR TASKS. THEY ARE STATE EMPLOYEES. THEY ARE TRAINED TO GIVE THEIR BEST, AND OFTEN THEIR BEST GOES UNNOTICED.

I INTEND TO BUILD GOOD MORALE, REWARD EXCELLENCE, AND PUT A RECOGNIZABLE FACE ON WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED A "FACELESS BUREAUCRACY."

STATE EMPLOYEES WILL RECOGNIZE YOU, THE VERMONT CITIZEN, FOR WHO YOU ARE--THEIR MOST IMPORTANT CUSTOMER. AND YOU IN TURN WILL BE ASKED TO RECOGNIZE THEM AS HARD WORKING AND SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Transcript of Madeleine Kunin's speech at her first inauguration as Governor of Vermont, January 10, 1985. From the Madeleine May Kunin Papers, Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEW OPENNESS WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT.

WE MUST ESTABLISH NEW AND MORE OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND STATE EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS AMONG AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

PROBLEMS KNOW NO NEAT AND TIDY BOUNDARIES, DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PUT THEM IN LITTLE SQUARE BOXES. WHEN WE ADDRESS JOB TRAINING, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT, WE HAVE TO ADOPT A PLAN OF ACTION THAT DISREGARDS THE USUAL CATEGORIES AND SHAPES NEW ENTITIES TO MEET OUR NEEDS.

OUR HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS DEPEND ON THE SUCCESS OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND THEY IN TURN, DEPEND ON THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION. THE BEST WAY TO GET OFF WELFARE IS TO GET A JOB, AND THE BEST WAY TO GET A JOB, IS THROUGH EDUCATION.

NEITHER CAN WE DELUDE OURSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT THERE IS A CHOICE BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLE.

THE FIVE AGENCY SECRETARIES WHO WERE RECENTLY APPOINTED FULLY RECOGNIZE THEIR INTERDEPENDENCE AND WILL WORK COLLEGIALLY TO ACHIEVE OUR MUTUALLY-SHARED GOALS.

THEY BRING MUCH ENERGY, A NEW VISION, AND SPECIAL SKILLS TO THEIR TASKS. YOU WILL BE PROUD OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

BUT AS THEY BEGIN THEIR WORK, THEY KNOW, AS WE ALL DO, THAT IN THIS YEAR OF THE DEFICIT, WE MUST BE PRUDENT MANAGERS.

THE DEFICIT WILL BE RETIRED AS PLANNED. I AM COMMITTED TO ADHERING TO THE SCHEDULE WHICH THIS BODY HAS ESTABLISHED.

IN VERMONT, WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN, HERE IN THIS STATE OF HARD SCRABBLE HILL SIDE FARMS, THAT WE LIVE A WORLD OF LIMITS.

LIVING ON THE MARGIN, WE LEARNED TO HUSBAND OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE STONES IN THE FIELD WERE NOT MERELY MOVED INTO A PILE --- THEY WERE CAREFULLY PLACED, ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER, FORMING PERFECT WALLS OF PROTECTION.

AS WE LEARNED TO BECOME STEWARDS OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, SO MUST WE NOW LEARN TO BE STEWARDS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

IT WILL BE NEITHER A SIMPLE NOR A PAINLESS PROCESS.

WE WILL FACE DIFFICULT CHOICES.

WE WILL HAVE TO RECYCLE LIMITED TAX DOLLARS, JUST AS WE HAVE RECYCLED LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES.

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OUR CHALLENGE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS IS CLEAR -- WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE IN A WORLD OF FINANCIAL LIMITS, WHILE MOVING FORWARD ON THE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME.

BUT, WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FINANCIAL RESTRAINT AND POLITICAL PARALYSIS.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STAND STILL, BECAUSE THAT TOO, HAS A COST. IN FACT, IF WE DO NOT INVEST NOW, DESPITE THE SACRIFICE IT WILL DEMAND, IN A SOUND EDUCATION AND A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, WE WILL PAY A GREATER PRICE YEARS FROM NOW.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTIONS OF FINANCIAL LIMITS, THERE ARE EXCITING POSSIBILITIES. UNDER THESE PRESSURES, INNOVATION AND FRESH THINKING ARE IN HIGH DEMAND.

OUR CHALLENGE IN 1985 IS TO BALANCE RESPONSIBILITY AND HOPE.

WE MUST ALSO THINK BEYOND THIS YEAR, AND PLAN OUR LONG TERM FUTURE.

IN MY DICTIONARY, THE FUTURE IS DEFINED THROUGH OUR CHILDREN.

IT IS THEIR EDUCATION AND WELL BEING THAT WE MUST ASSURE.

IN THAT SENSE, ALL VERMONTERS ARE PARENTS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

RAISING THE DRINKING AGE TO 21 IS ONE STEP WE CAN AND MUST TAKE TO MAKE CERTAIN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SPARED FROM BEING VICTIMS OR PERPETRATORS OF DRUNK DRIVING ACCIDENTS.

I APPEAL TO THIS BODY TO MAKE THAT A FIRST PRIORITY IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

SECONDLY, I ASK YOU TO WORK TOWARD A GOAL THAT I SENSE WE ALREADY SHARE--QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

INCREASED STATE AID, ACCESS TO KINDERGARTEN, COORDINATED JOB TRAINING FOR ADULTS --THESE ARE EDUCATION PRIORITIES FOR THIS SESSION.

IN MY BUDGET ADDRESS, I WILL SPELL OUT THE DETAILS OF THESE PROPOSALS, AS WELL AS PROGRAMS GEARED DIRECTLY TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: A PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND A REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, IS ANOTHER INVESTMENT WE CANNOT POSTPONE. WE MUST LOOK FOR INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND HIGHER EDUCATION, TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMY OF VERMONT AND BRING IT INTO THE VANGUARD.

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TO FURTHER BOLSTER OUR VERMONT ECONOMY, AND TO SHIELD US FROM LATER ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS, I ASK YOU TO MAKE A RENEWED EFFORT TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS TO THOSE AREAS OF THE STATE WHERE IT HAS BEEN MOST DIFFICULT TO CREATE NEW JOBS.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE STATUS QUO. WE CAN AND WE WILL DO BETTER.

I WILL PROPOSE TWO PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH WILL MOVE US IN THAT DIRECTION.

--A VERMONT VENTURE CAPITAL CORPORATION AND JOB ZONES.

BOTH INITIATIVES WILL CREATE ECONOMIC GROWTH BY USING THE RESOURCES OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO STIMULATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

IN KEEPING WITH THE ACCESSIBLE SPIRIT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, I WILL DIRECT THE SECRETARIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO STREAMLINE RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING BUSINESS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE REGULATORS, BUT LET US ASSURE OURSELVES THAT THE REGULATIONS ARE NECESSARY AND SERVE THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE PUBLIC GOOD, RATHER THAN PROMOTING A BURGEONING BUREAUCRACY.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE BEGINS WITH OUR SUPPORT FOR PARENTS. THE FOCUS OF THE AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES IN MY ADMINISTRATION WILL BE TO STRENGTHEN THE VERMONT FAMILY IN SEVERAL WAYS:

1. WE WILL ESTABLISH CLEAR GOALS TO MEASURE OUR SUCCESS, SUCH AS INCREASED INCIDENCE OF HEALTHY BIRTH WEIGHTS, INCREASED NUMBER OF PARENTS WHO COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL, AND DECREASED CASES OF VERIFIABLE CHILD AND SPOUSE ABUSE.

2. WE WILL ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO DEFINE HOW TO BETTER COORDINATE AND ORGANIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, WITH ONE GOAL IN MIND, TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO VERMONT FAMILIES.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEW SECRETARY, THE AGENCY WILL ALSO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, AND THOSE WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY. WE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE NOT IGNORED AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSES DRASTIC CUTBACKS.

BUT THE AGENCY ALONE CANNOT MEET ALL NEEDS.

GREATER COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL CHARACTERIZE THIS ADMINISTRATION.

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IN THIS SPIRIT, I WILL CALL A CHILD CARE CONFERENCE FOR VERMONT EMPLOYERS TO ASSIST AND ENCOURAGE THEM IN PROVIDING CHILD CARE OPTIONS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

THE PRIVATE EMPLOYER HAS NOT ONLY MUCH TO GIVE IN THE AREA OF CHILD CARE, BUT ALSO HAS MUCH TO GAIN--BETTER MORALE, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND LOWER TURNOVER.

IN FORMER YEARS, A GOVERNOR COULD TURN TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SEPARATE THEM FROM HUMAN SERVICE ISSUES. ONE SEEMED TO CONCENTRATE ON "OBJECTS" AND THE OTHER, ON "PEOPLE". THE ENVIRONMENT WAS LARGELY AN AESTHETIC ISSUE--KEEP VERMONT BEAUTIFUL.

THAT IS NO LONGER TRUE. THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME ARE HEALTH ISSUES AND VERY DIRECTLY AFFECT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE. THIS CREATES A NEW SENSE OF URGENCY TO ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND EXPEDIENT MANNER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC.

IT IS THE POINT WHERE NATURE MEETS TECHNOLOGY WHICH HAS TURNED INTO AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.

WE KNOW WE HAVE TAKEN UNCALCULATED RISKS, WHICH WE HAVE YET TO DEFINE AND CONTAIN.

TO HELP US COPE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTIONS, AS WELL AS TO PREVENT FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, I WILL PROPOSE THAT WE CREATE A MINI-SUPERFUND TO CLEAN UP HAZARDOUS AREAS AND TO SET STANDARDS FOR THOSE WHO PRODUCE, TRANSPORT AND STORE THESE MATERIALS.

I WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE WORKPLACE, EITHER THROUGH REGULATION OR LEGISLATION.

IN KEEPING WITH OUR COLLEGIAL SPIRIT, A SUB CABINET, DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WILL BE FORMED INCLUDING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SECTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

A POLICY OF REASONABLE GROWTH WILL CHARACTERIZE MY ADMINISTRATION. OUR TASK WILL BE TO PROTECT AND SHARE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES WITHOUT MANDATING ARBITRARY RESTRICTIONS ON GROWTH. SUCH A POLICY OFTEN CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. LEGISLATION AND REGULATION MAY BE NECESSARY TO AUGMENT THAT--OPTIONS WHICH I WILL FULLY EXPLORE.

AS WE KNOW THE LIMITS OF NATURE, WE ALSO KNOW OF ITS ABUNDANCE. OUR VERMONT FARMS MUST CONTINUE NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO THRIVE.

AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, I ASSURE YOU, I WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY IF WASHINGTON BELIEVES IT CAN STARVE OUT THE FAMILY FARM.

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I WILL FIGHT FOR OUR SURVIVAL BECAUSE THE FARM IS THE CENTER OF OUR RURAL WAY OF LIFE, IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR TOURIST INDUSTRY, AND IT GIVES US OUR BASIC CHARACTER.

IT IS OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE WHICH GUIDES VERMONT TODAY, EVEN AS MANY VERMONTERS NO LONGER THEMSELVES TILL THE LAND.

IRA ALLEN WROTE IN 1798: "THEY ARE ALL FARMERS AND AGAIN EVERY FARMER IS A MECHANIC IN SOME LINE OR OTHER, AS INCLINATION LEADS OR NECESSITY REQUIRES. THE HAND THAT GUIDES THE PLOW FREQUENTLY CONSTRUCTS IT, AND THE LABORS OF THE AXE AND THE PLANE OFTEN EVINCE A DEGREE OF GENIUS AND DEXTERITY THAT WOULD REALLY AMAZE YOU."

THIS SENSE OF INGENUITY, IS OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH. IT ENABLED US TO SURVIVE AS WE CARVED THESE FARMS OUT OF THE HILLSIDE.

IT WILL ENABLE US TO SURVIVE TODAY, AND TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE NATION.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE IN THE EARLY 70'S HELPED STIR THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION.

OUR NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTIONS IN THE EARLY 80'S AT TOWN MEETINGS SET A NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN MOTION.

TODAY, WE HAVE SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AGAIN.

OUR ABILITY TO DEAL FAIRLY WITH THE HARSH REALITIES OF LIVING WITHIN A WORLD OF FINANCIAL LIMITS CAN SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE NATION WHICH IS STRUGGLING TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

OUR TASK IS TO BE BOTH PRUDENT AND HUMANE.

I ASK THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO JOIN ME IN A BI-PARTISAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE OUR SHARED GOAL.

I GREW UP IN THIS CHAMBER. I KNOW IT WELL. I RESPECT IT. THERE IS A SPECIAL FEELING OF WARMTH AND FAMILIARITY WHEN I LOOK ACROSS THE SPAN OF THIS ROOM.

I ASK YOU TO SHARE IN THE TASK AHEAD, AS WE JOINTLY WORK TO ACHIEVE MORE WITH LESS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP WHICH VERMONT HAS PLACED BEFORE ME.

I HAVE FAITH, NOT ONLY IN MY ABILITY AND IN YOURS, BUT IN OUR MUTUAL RESOURCEFULNESS.

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IN VERMONT, WE HAVE GROWN UP WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NATURE INDEED MAY BE HARSH AND UNPREDICTABLE, BUT ALSO WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT EACH SEASON BRINGS ITS OWN RENEWAL AND EACH YEAR FOLLOWS A CERTAIN RHYTHM. WE KNOW IT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE TO BLEND AUSTERITY AND OPTIMISM, IT IS PART OF THE HUMAN CONDITION, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SURVIVAL.

IT WAS GOVERNOR GEORGE AIKEN, WHOM WE PARTICULARLY MISS ON THIS DAY, WHO WROTE IN 1938,

"DAY AFTER DAY I HAVE OCCASION TO THANK GOD THAT I AM GOVERNOR OF VERMONT. OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES, I THINK I HAVE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE GENERAL GOOD WHICH MAY BE EFFECTED BY COOPERATION AMONG GROUPS. I DON'T MEAN THAT WE DON'T HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION IN VERMONT...I WANT TO SAY HERE AND NOW THAT ALTHOUGH OUR FOLKS DIFFER IN THE MEANS, THEY ALL AIM AT THE SAME ULTIMATE END--AND THAT IS THE WELFARE OF OUR STATE."

I, LIKE GOVERNOR AIKEN, THANK GOD THAT I AM GOVERNOR OF VERMONT. IT IS AN AWESOME TASK.

IT PRESENTS WONDERFUL POSSIBILITIES.

WITH YOUR HELP, AND THE BLESSINGS OF THE ALMIGHTY, WE WILL SUCCEED.

LET US BEGIN.

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