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INAUGURAL MESSAGE

of

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. VIVIAN

GOVERNOR OF COLORADO

Delivered before the Joint Session of the

COLORADO LEGISLATURE

Thirty-fourth Session



AT DENVER

JANUARY 12, 1943

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To the Members of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly
of Colorado:

Today marks the end of one administration and the beginning of another. The incoming group, made up in large measure by the men who constitute the outgoing administration, will endeavor to carry on in the method and manner outlined by Governor Ralph L. Carr who leaves official life with the satisfaction of knowing that the pledges made to the people in the last four years of his administration have been fulfilled.

Those of us who succeed to the task take office with the full realization that the Republican party made certain commitments to the people of the state during the recent campaign which must, like those of the previous four years, be fulfilled.

The party reaffirmed and renewed its pledge of economy which has been wholesomely practiced in Colorado during the last two administrations. The reorganization of the state government through the administrative code of 1941 was chiefly responsible for the fact that instead of the deficit which existed when we assumed office, four years ago, there is today in the treasury of the state, a surplus of approximately two million dollars.

We pledged to the people of Colorado that there would be no new taxes enacted at this session of the legislature and that the savings already accomplished would be reflected in a proper lessening of the tax burden of the citizen. We propose to see that that pledge is fulfilled. We must also do everything in our power to further reduce the tax burden on the citizens of this state.

We likewise said to the people that we were in favor of adequate legislation to protect small borrowers from extortions and pledged ourselves and the legislature to work for the passage and enforcement of an adequate law to this end.

We likewise promised to provide an equitable system of financing education and to enforce existing laws so that every child in the state may have proper educational opportunities. We favored the extension of the reorganization of state government to cover reorganization of the State Department of Education to that end.

We have been confronted with a situation in two counties where the school districts, for financial reasons, were unable to open their schools last fall. We believe the primary reason for this state of affairs is due to the improper assessment of lands within the school districts affected and the improper collection of taxes supporting those districts. It is suggested that the legislature appraise this situation with the hope that it

may find a solution for school districts not able to finance themselves so that we shall not have a recurrence of the conditions existing in Conejos and Costilla Counties.

In so doing we must bear in mind the constitutional provisions with reference to the control of schools. Article IX of Section 1 of the Colorado Constitution provides "The general supervision of the public schools of the state shall be vested in a board of education * * *."

Section 15 of the constitution provides "said (school) directors shall have control of instruction in the public schools of their respective districts."

We are in favor of assisting the schools in every way possible so long as we do not invade the authority of the local school districts as defined in these two constitutional provisions.

Considering the scarcity of school teachers in the present emergency and the probability of securing better qualifications by longer contracts, it would seem advisable to extend to all school districts the right now exercised by those of the first class to execute teachers' contracts for a longer period than one year. This could probably be done by simply striking the words "of the first class" from Section 51, Chapter 125, S. L. 1933, which is Section 10, Chapter 103, '35 C. S. A.

The platforms of the Republican party in 1938, 1940 and 1942 pledged "to attempt by strict economical administration of the state's financial affairs, to comply with the letter of the pension law." This pledge has been kept and payments under the pension law have been materially increased during the Carr administrations. Again we pledged ourselves in the recent campaign to the continued strict enforcement of the taxing laws as well as an economical administration of the pension law so that the largest amount obtainable under these laws shall be rendered available for old age assistance. We shall make every effort to see that this is done.

We provided in the party platform that all qualified persons who are citizens of the United States are entitled to equal opportunities for employment in the service of our government and that it is contrary to sound policy to permit religious, civic, political, racial or labor organizations to control opportunities for such employment. We likewise said that we believe that membership in a religious, civic, political, racial or labor organization should not be a prerequisite to employment on government financial projects. It is suggested that the legislature canvass the industrial situation in Colorado to the end that labor, employees, capital and our citizens may each be

protected, and to take such steps, if need be, to guarantee this as their fundamental rights.

The Republican party has been continually interested in protecting the industries of Colorado. Prominent among these are agriculture and mining. It is pertinent to remark at this time that with the war having virtually deprived us of outside sugar, the sugar beet industry in Colorado and the West, which was doomed some eight years ago by the present Vice President of the United States, is now probably saving the nation from a total lack of sugar.

Our gold mines have been automatically and improvidently closed. Of that, further reference will be made in a moment. But gold is but one of the many natural resources of this state. The conservation and development of our great and varied natural resources for the benefit of all the people of Colorado is an increasingly important problem. The production of strategic metals so critically needed in the successful prosecution of the War should be encouraged. Recent inventions and developments in processing such metals by the utilization of cheap electric power permits the economical production of low grade ores, as contrasted with older and more expensive methods.

The production of these metals will not cease with the end of the War. The rebuilding of industries destroyed and the construction of new enterprises will require for many years thereafter the maximum production from our mines.

An earnest effort should be made by appropriate Committees of the House and Senate to formulate an effective and practical plan whereby the natural resources of this State will be developed by and for the benefit of our people.

We have been vigilant under the able leadership of Governor Carr in zealously protecting the water rights of Colorado which constitute the life blood of our agriculture, stock raising and gardening communities. The Constitution of Colorado provides that the water of every natural stream in this state is the property of the public and dedicated to the use of its people. The Courts of Colorado and the Supreme Court of the United States have many times upheld this doctrine. We also pledged ourselves to continued aggressive protection of these rights.

We will resist to the utmost the effort which has recently been made to deprive the western portion of this state of the narrow gauge railroads which have served it and aided materially in the building of it over a period of years. We believe the method of attack is unlawful and unconstitutional and that the owners of the lines, if the threat is carried to a conclusion,

will be deprived of their property without due process of law. We shall resist any further effort to deprive us of an industry which means the economic life or death to the people served by it.

We must anticipate and give consideration to the demands which will be made upon the state following the signing of the peace. It is suggested that we allocate to a proper post war fund, such monies as in the judgment of the legislature may be necessary to meet those demands.

In an effort to economize and further reorganize the state government, it is suggested that the legislature make a further effort to discontinue unnecessary boards, bureaus and commissions and to consolidate those which have virtually the same or similar duties to perform under the law and which are not covered by existing law.

There is also a demand from practically every agency in the state that salaries or wages be increased to meet the rising cost of living. In investigating this situation, it is suggested that the legislature explore the question of equalizing salaries so that those engaged in similar activities may receive substantially the same emolument.

In anticipating the return of the men who are now serving in the armed forces from Colorado, their hospitalization and domiciliary care, the General Assembly is urged to give serious consideration to the creation of a state service office, to assist these men in properly rehabilitating themselves.

It is also suggested that the legislature, in order that greater economy in transportation may be effected, consolidate state inspectors of various departments doing similar work, so that as many inspectors as possible, may make the same trip to the same territory in the same automobile.

It is to be hoped that the appropriations in the aggregate will be lower than two years ago. It will be a policy of this administration to provide the best in government as efficiently and economically as possible.

In endeavoring to conform to the war effort, it is strongly urged that no legislation be introduced except that which is of a most urgent nature and which is absolutely necessary to operate the state for the ensuing biennium or to cooperate in the war effort. It is further urged that before introducing any bill in either house, the question be asked: "Is this absolutely necessary, or can it be deferred for two years?". Needless to say this question will be asked by the executive when the bills are brought to his desk for approval. Bills "by request" should be completely out.

There seems to be some discrepancies in the methods of bookkeeping in the several departments of the state. It is suggested that this matter be investigated so that a uniform set of books may be kept in each agency if it is possible to bring this about.

It is strongly urged that the legislature expedite its business as much as it is possible to do so. Much time has been wasted in previous sessions which might otherwise have been profitably used. There were many unnecessary recesses and adjournments which could have been avoided.

It is suggested that the long appropriation bill be introduced early in the session and disposed of as speedily as possible. A number of states in the union are limited by statute to 60 days deliberation. It is to be hoped you may finish your work and be in your homes not later than March 6. The executive office will cooperate completely in an effort to bring this about. It will likewise be a sweet morsel in the mouths of the citizens of this state.

The government has requested that a speed limit of 35 miles an hour for passenger cars be established for the duration of the war. It seems equitable that we should go along with the national administration in this regard. Any and all war legislation should be specifically limited to a date shortly after the signing of the peace so that we may again return to our ordinary processes of government as quickly as possible after the emergency is over.

The government has also requested that no new construction be planned or carried into effect during the emergency and that any funds available for building purposes in the State of Colorado shall be held in abeyance until after the peace is signed. It seems reasonable that we should comply with this request to the end that all necessary materials may be allocated to the war effort.

The best way to prepare to meet post war obligations is to accumulate and safeguard surpluses and to plan concretely for the effective spending of the same to the end that our state and its citizens may be properly rehabilitated during the after-war period of readjustments. By exercising strict economy now, the state can postpone until after the emergency the execution of many tasks whose performance then can aid in achieving this objective.

In line with the policy of economy advocated by the platform of the Republican Party in the last election it is suggested that the Assembly survey the personnel situation in every department of the state government with a view to eliminating all unnecessary employees and all useless duties of government

which are not required in the operation of the state during the ensuing biennium. We must cut our expenses to the very bone in every department of our commonwealth if we are going to fully cooperate with the national administration in bringing the war to a speedy and successful conclusion. The Legislature can be decidedly helpful in making detailed examination of the man power requirements in each subdivision of government and in taking the proper action with reference thereto.

The suggestion has been made that an investigation be made of the number of departments which are renting premises for official occupancy outside of the state-owned buildings to the end that they may be brought on to state property at as early a date as possible or in order that plans may be made to build suitable accommodations for these several departments after the emergency is over, thus saving a large amount of rent which is now being expended on behalf of these agencies.

It might be well for the Assembly to give some thought to subdividing the more populous counties so that their citizens may vote in districts for members of the legislature. This will take a constitutional amendment but it is worthy of the consideration of the Assembly.

The Legislature should become interested in the situation in which the state finds itself with reference to the federal order closing the gold and silver mines of Colorado. Certainly this was a vicious move on the part of those in seeming authority. It appears from the facts available that hundreds of employees of mining districts have been unceremoniously thrown out of employment and nothing has been gained for the war effort. We should cooperate in doing everything we can to reopen the mines at the earliest possible moment. This action was a flagrant and arbitrary disregard of the rights of the people of the State of Colorado.

The state budget and efficiency commissioner, after having surveyed the operation of the Reorganization Act passed by the Thirty-third General Assembly, suggests that either the auditing of vouchers and issuance of warrants should be returned to the state auditor or that a comptroller directly responsible to the Governor should be created for the disbursement of all state funds. He points out that the latter would probably be the most practical inasmuch as it would eliminate the necessity of the executive approving all vouchers issued by agencies under the executive department; that this detail of signing the thousands of vouchers thus issued should be the duty of someone in the position to know that the vouchers are in proper form and that all requirements are fulfilled. It is absolutely physically impossible for the chief

executive to properly examine and approve all accounts submitted to him under the present system.

Consideration should be given to the question of budgeting county government in order that the receipts and expenditures of funds by the several counties of the state may be placed on a more business-like basis and rendered more economical in operation.

The question of Civil Service is always a live issue in Colorado. There are approximately 1157 provisional employees who have never been examined according to law for the purpose of determining whether they shall be certified to the permanent list. There are some 209 of these in the Highway Department alone. Among this group the oldest provisional employee was appointed in 1930. Twelve years have elapsed during which time it seems reasonable an examination should have been given to determine his fitness to become a permanent employee.

There is a provisional employee in another department who was appointed in 1924. Eighteen years is a long time for a man to hold a provisional job when the rules of the commission provide he must be examined "as soon as practical" after his appointment to determine his continued employment.

It is suggested that the Legislature examine the Civil Service situation and make some provision for the examination of these hundreds of employees and thus bring the permanent Civil Service lists to date. Perhaps the state and private educational institutions of higher learning would be willing to conduct the required examinations without additional expense to the state. At least they should be consulted regarding the matter.

There are many agencies, departments, bureaus and commissions which, under the law, are required to submit biennial reports to the Governor of their activities and accomplishments over a two-year period of time. In the past these reports have been printed in such profusion as to create a tremendous waste. They have been distributed broadcast to numerous persons, companies, corporations and others not interested in their contents with the result that large numbers of them have periodically found their way to waste baskets, a total loss of effort and money.

The Legislature is urged to canvass the situation with a view to amending the law where it provides for specific numbers of reports to be printed in order that only such as may be reasonably needed shall be published and distributed. Every citizen, agency, company or corporation desiring a copy or copies of any such report should be furnished the same but no more should be ordered by any department than are neces-

sary to reasonably supply the demand. The practice of mailing them in large numbers to persons whose interest is at least questionable should be promptly discontinued to the end that such unnecessary expense and utter waste may be saved the taxpayers.

Many departments of the state are governed either by statute or constitution by the three or more persons, others by only one. Unquestionably there are agencies of the state now functioning under the three-man system which could just as efficiently be administered by one man. It is suggested that the Legislature appraise this situation to the end that the constitution or laws be amended to do away with the superfluous man power involved and thus save the additional salaries and expense incident to the continued maintenance of unnecessary membership on such boards, bureaus, etc. This could easily apply to those boards not invested with judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

Governor Carr called attention in his message on January 8 to the burden which is placed on the executive under the present system in having to consider personally all applications for paroles and pardons. He suggested a system which might be worked out along the lines of the recent recommendation of the federal courts. In the meantime, however, it would very much assist the governor's office if the legislature would enact a law providing for the creation of a non-paid board of pardons and paroles so that all applications for executive clemency could be referred to such a board which in turn could make its recommendations to the governor. Only the necessary traveling expenses to and from the penitentiary should be authorized. Even a paid secretary might be dispensed with. It is suggested that the proper committee discuss this with the warden of the state penitentiary.

Provision should be made for the preservation of public records no longer currently useful by public officers instead of allowing them to deteriorate or become lost or displaced. The State Historical Society should be given authority to safeguard and preserve such records.

Among the institutions of Colorado which are of vital consequence to its citizens are the Colorado General and the Colorado Psychopathic Hospitals in Denver. These two institutions have experienced the greatest difficulty in operating within the amount of the limited appropriation for the current biennium, with the result that in order to keep open and to serve the various counties of the State, they will be forced to end the current fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$50,000. To economize in the operation of institutions which serve so great a public need is false economy. The legislature should give careful consideration to a supplemental appropri-

ation to cover the essential deficiencies that have been incurred and a further appropriation to sustain these hospitals adequately during the next two years.

Colorado may well be proud of her University and of her Colleges. The service to the state in providing higher educational facilities for its young men and women is one of the state's greatest endeavors and obligations. These institutions should not only be supported but should be encouraged in the contribution which they are making toward the war-time activities and in preparing the people to meet the responsibilities of the future. The salaries which are paid to their staff members in the middle and the lower brackets are perhaps, in some instances, too low. The state should meet this responsibility and provide adequate means for maintenance and growth.

Colorado is proud of her penal and charitable institutions. The state has a continuing and increasingly difficult task in caring for the delinquents and the mentally incompetents.

The attendant problem in those agencies is an ever present one. The legislature should explore this situation with a view of appealing to this class of employment through increased emolument. The obligation is ours. We must meet it practically, courageously.

It is apparent that the change in the status of the civilian from a peace economy to a war economy is of extreme importance. It is obvious that laws necessary to win the war and which must originate in Washington must be coordinated and then channelled to our local civilian. There is no power under our present constitutional state government to bring this about. It became necessary therefore, to create an emergency measure, called the Civilian Defense Act.

If we expect to return to those privileges of liberty which we have enjoyed for the last 150 years we must create a means whereby the average citizen will be furnished the facts concerning his national administration. After these have been turned over to him thru the state council of defense and the local councils, he then can make up his mind as to what his national government should or should not do in this regard.

The Colorado Council of Defense should be the agency to bring these facts to our citizens and should in turn be their means to get their opinions to our national, state and government officials. The State Council of Defense is purely a coordinating job because, in order to acquire existing knowledge of our various governmental activities, it is absolutely necessary that the overlapping of government operations should be eliminated.

We shall need a few highly efficient organizers who, thru their abilities, should be able to contact personally the large number of national government agencies and coordinate their functions into our local defense councils. At present there are many bewildering national agencies. We must be on guard against their useless overlapping and contradictions seeping into our local defense council activities. We should be ready to spring into instant action when the war is over. The Colorado Council of Defense is our organization, belongs to our citizens and is operated by our people. We must keep it that way. It is absolutely necessary that it be manned by Coloradoans and operated by our local citizens.

The leaders in this endeavor will all come from the grass roots of our social democracy. They will have been appointed by their local associates. They will be citizen leaders. They will represent the best there is in Colorado in spirit and in action. They are the fathers and mothers of the boys at the front. They are people who have lived and worked all their lives in Colorado. The future of our government is in their hands. All they will need to guarantee us a return to the American way of life will be the true facts which will be furnished them by the State Council of Defense.

The Administrative Code Bill of 1941 went into effect on July 1 of that year. The benefits from that Act are now pretty well established and fairly well understood in the state at large. Briefly stated, the accomplishments insofar as the Department of Revenue is concerned for the first year are:

- (a) A reduction in personnel from an average of 456 people to an average of 318;
- (b) An actual saving in administrative expense of \$205,993.55;
- (c) An increase in the collection of revenue from \$25,649,484.09 to \$27,389,703.62, or a net increase of \$1,740,219.53;
- (d) A reduction in the cost of collecting \$100 of revenue from \$3.86 to \$2.86.

These accomplishments are indications of what may be expected if the State of Colorado continues to administer its revenue laws on business and non-partisan principles.

A statute of limitations should be established upon the collection of sales, service and use taxes so that merchants and others will not be unduly burdened by the present need for saving all sales records for an indefinite time.

The legislature might profitably consider a uniform method for the collection of all taxes except ad valorem taxes

which will do away with the present diverse methods employed by different forms of collections; that county treasurers be given the power of distraint for the collection of personal property taxes in counties outside of their own counties but within the State of Colorado, or that the Department of Revenue be given power to act on behalf of the county treasurers in collecting personal property taxes where the taxpayer or his property are located outside the county where the tax is due; that specific authority be given the Department of Revenue to make out-of-state audits for the collection of all state taxes and that in cases where the books and records of the taxpayer are not available within the State of Colorado and it becomes necessary to send State representatives outside of the State for the purpose of auditing such books and records, the expense of such audit be borne by the taxpayer audited. Similar statutes to the one proposed are now in force in the states of California, Michigan, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The assembly should look carefully into the employment of an adequate number of capable men to properly audit the returns of the state's revenue. A field force of sufficient numbers to reach every source of revenue due to state which may not be collected at present because of insufficient man power in the department should be carefully considered.

The legislature might well explore the situation concerning revenue which is not now being collected by the Department of Revenue in order that the intent of the reorganization act may be more fully complied with. There should be no conflict of authority with reference to the collection of revenue. Any agencies now collecting state taxes should be examined to the end that all collections should be consolidated in the proper department aforesaid.

The legislature is the bulwark of our freedom. It must continue to stand guard against this continual usurpation of states rights and the everlasting encroachment on state sovereignty. We shall continue to do our utmost to aid the war effort but we shall not suspend our constitutional democracy in doing so. We shall take positive action in aid of the war instead of passive inaction.

We want as little federal interference as possible in rebuilding that which we have lost as a result of the war. We shall continue to follow the policy of democratic processes in Colorado instead of edicts, regulations and manifestos by unlawful and unconstitutional authority.

We shall continue to encourage competition in business, individual initiative and free enterprise in order that our people may go along in the American way of life.

The Constitution of the United States provides that:

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

We fully expect to continue to exercise that prerogative in Colorado without any interference from whatsoever source. We have been doing a pretty good job of governing ourselves under our own constitution, our own bill of rights and our own statutes enacted by 33 legislatures since 1876 and the world had just as well know that we propose to continue to do so.

We have all taken the oath and have solemnly sworn that we will faithfully execute the offices to which we have been elected and that we will preserve, protect and defend the constitutions of the United States and of Colorado. We shall carry out this oath to the best of our ability.

As pointed out in the provisions of the federal constitution, the government of the United States is one of limited powers. Those granted by the states and the people to the government are enumerated in the constitution which declares that all other powers are reserved to the people and to the states. We propose to see that this constitutional provision is adhered to in the State of Colorado.

There seems to be a philosophy abroad which approves of the plan that without the changing of a single word in the Constitution, the national government has been changed from one of limited to one of unlimited central authority. Under that philosophy, the right is claimed to overrun and disregard state borders and to regiment our people. The right is claimed to decide all questions at the seat of government two thousand miles away without consultation with those deeply affected thereby. That is not the American way.

Thousands of pounds of fruit and vegetables ripened and rotted or were frozen in the ground in Colorado in the past six months because there was insufficient manpower to harvest these crops. The government had either taken the boys from the farms to the army or had lured them or permitted them to be lured to the numerous construction projects or manufacturing plants in and around Denver. It paid them fabulous salaries far in excess of what they had ever earned before or will earn again. If this policy is continued, it is difficult to understand how we are going to feed ourselves or provide any food for the men in the military service in the future. If the farmer could only return to the good old days before a firmly entrenched bureaucracy began to meddle in everybody's affairs

and regulated everything and every person in the nation; if he could only go back to the time when he was allowed to raise whatever he desired, in such amounts as he determined, could market it wherever he saw fit and for such prices as were then agreed upon, there would not only not be any scarcity of food but the surplusses would, as they always have, under such a system, take care of themselves. Let us pray to God we shall revert to the American way in agriculture before a fallacious planned economy completely ruins the farmer and the nation.

The Secretary of Agriculture is asking for greater production in 1943. How in the name of heaven is the farmer going to produce more when he couldn't harvest his crops in 1942 and with the prospect of even more men being taken from the farms during the year?

Incidentally, the Secretary has recently announced that it was a mistake to plow under the cotton crop some eight years ago and to destroy the five million pigs and cattle. Everyone except the theoretical economists in Washington knew that at the time. It is criminal to waste food anytime, any place or for any purpose.

It has also been decreed by the peculiar philosophy rampant in Washington at this time that a large number of small businesses in America shall be ruined as a result of the present trend. How the business man and the farmer can continue to pay the continually mounting taxes which the government is going to require if they are deprived of carrying on their businesses and agricultural pursuits, isn't exactly clear. If business, agriculture and industry are destroyed, who is going to finance the war?

We shall continue in Colorado to endeavor to turn the tide of governmental short-sightedness in connection with our farms, mines, industry and business in this state to the end that we may produce as much as we can, not only to save ourselves from economic stagnation, but in order that we may cooperate in winning the war. This will be most difficult and will require the undivided efforts and support of every citizen of this state.

The men who are serving our government in the uniform from Colorado are the first citizens of this state. They are, in many instances, undergoing sacrifices unheard of by us. We must look forward to the time when they shall return. We must do the homage and fealty to which they are entitled. Above all, we must see that they return to the same kind of government of freedom, initiative, and individual enterprise which they left when they went to serve their country.

These men are fighting for this very thing—the American way of life which they have helped build. Certainly we cannot

destroy the thing at home which they are fighting for abroad. This is of the utmost importance to every citizen of the State of Colorado.

We have far too much government in business. We have far too many adolescent minds operating under unlawful, autocratic and unconstitutional edicts, regulations and manifestos invading more and more every day the rights and privileges of our people under our own Constitution, Bill of Rights and statutory system of government. We have far too many incompetent, inexperienced and inefficient people reaching farther and farther into our individual lives in an effort to create the totalitarian state.

We must see to it that steps be taken to return the state's economic system to the realistic profit-or-loss basis of private enterprise. If we would recognize again the inherent soundness of the law of supply and demand, individual initiative and competition in business, we would soon cure all of our economic troubles. Planned economy is a theory which will never work. If it does, we had just as well confiscate all of the textbooks on economics and sociology which define the American system we knew ten years ago, upon which this nation was founded—a system which motivated the pioneer in reaching out for new horizons and new opportunities and which those great spirits who founded this Commonwealth wove into the basic fabric of our state government. Gentlemen of the 34th General Assembly, it is for you to protect and preserve that system.

It is a matter of extreme gratification to know that we have a legislature in which we have the utmost confidence. The citizens of Colorado are looking to all of us to keep the ship of state on even keel. Cooperating, we can do the job.

There will be a common misunderstanding and sympathetic approach to the problems which will confront us during the days of the session. Experience with the legislature gives one in the executive office a keen insight into the affairs of state which cannot be gained in any other way. By virtue of this knowledge, we should be able to complete the work of the assembly with dispatch and decorum. The doors downstairs will always be open to you or any of you whenever occasion requires. There is much satisfaction and comfort in the feeling that the executive and legislative departments of the state are in complete accord. We shall all bend effort to maintain it that way.

The elective state officials are of one accord concerning the steps which should be taken regarding the future welfare of Colorado. There will be frequent meetings of this group for the discussion of the problems confronting the administration. There will be the utmost cooperation to the end that

we may give the electorate which has so generously placed its confidence in us, the best in efficient state government. The experience in public office of the majority of the men and women who are to serve you the ensuing two years, is a guarantee of the competent and efficient handling of your affairs during that period. We bespeak for them the cooperation of Mr. Average Citizen. The job ahead will be much easier if the public will take more interest in its government at the state house.

With Divine guidance, each working in cooperation with the other, we cannot fail.

The State of Colorado has been most fortunate in having had at its helm for the past four years, one of the most prominent and outstanding citizens of this commonwealth. No governor has ever given more of his sympathetic interest, time, energy and attention to the affairs of state than has Ralph Carr.

A close personal friendship for 36 years, dating back to those golden days at the State university, has given a full opportunity to appraise his sterling qualities as a citizen, a strong, sturdy nature ever vigilant in the interest of his beloved state which gave him birth and an abiding faith in the ability of the people of Colorado to continue to govern themselves without outside interference or encroachment.

He has contributed much to the protection of the inherent, constitutional rights of the people of this state. His strong and convincing personality furnished the leadership which inspired the entire west to rally to Colorado's standard in the defense of its most cherished inheritance, the waters which flow from the Continental Divide. He has been equally diligent in protecting the mining, industrial, business and other varied interests of the state.

Ralph Carr's retirement to private life is a serious loss to the people of Colorado. We are assured, however, that he is on call at all times when he can assist in solving the ever increasing problems facing the state. We bid him success and Godspeed in whatever activity he chooses to pursue when he leaves the governorship.

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