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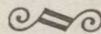
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MESSAGE FROM
SENATOR ED C. JOHNSON
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
TOGETHER WITH AN ADDRESS OF
GOVERNOR RAY H. TALBOT



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1937
AT
DENVER, COLORADO

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MESSAGE FROM EX-GOVERNOR ED. C. JOHNSON

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Thirty-first General Assembly:

It is with sincere regret that I communicate with you by letter instead of greeting you personally as you come into another historic session of the Colorado Legislature.

It was the proudest moment of my life when I took my oath of office as a state Representative fourteen years ago today. Legislative work fascinated me then as it does now, and I spent four very happy sessions in this chamber.

Legislative action has a tremendous bearing upon the progress of our state and upon the happiness and prosperity of our people. What you do here this session will either help Colorado tremendously or will do it irreparable harm.

Legislating for a commonwealth like Colorado is serious business and a heavy responsibility. I feel that you men and women will meet your problems squarely and that when you are through, the citizens of this state will not be saddled with new and oppressive taxes, and all of the really necessary functions of government will have been cared for. Heavy taxes will stop Colorado's progress like a wet blanket and will make it difficult to collect even the ordinary and usual revenues. The goose that lays the golden egg must be spared.

During the past four years the General Assembly and the state officials have kept the state on a strictly cash basis. Every bill in that time passed by the Assembly has been or will be paid in full on the due date, and there is money in sight to meet every need until the end of the biennium June 30, 1937. During that time the bonded indebtedness of the state has been reduced from \$7,200,200.00 to \$4,385,200.00. Highway anticipation warrants have been issued, but they will never become a burden upon the taxpayers as they are to be paid by the new business which improved roads will attract to Colorado.

When I came into office four years ago Colorado had a very modest Welfare Department; now that activity is disbursing more money than all of the other functions of state government combined, not including the Highway Department.

One of the outstanding history making achievements of the General Assembly during my administration was the creation of the Planning Commission. That department has accomplished a great work in planning a state highway system and a water conservation program. I sincerely hope that each of you will visit this department and see for yourselves the magnitude of the work accomplished in water conservation work at little or no cost to the state. The water division of the Planning Commission has given every section of the state consideration and representation. It has the distinct advantage of close coordination with the National Resources Committee. In fact, the Planning Commission is a living part of the New Deal. I want all of you to know more about the Planning Commission.

Many of you have served with me a long time and it is hard for me to say goodbye. I have appreciated your friendship and your cooperation and I hope that your public service will be satisfying to you and properly appreciated by the men, women and children whom you serve.

With great respect, I am

Most sincerely,

ED. C. JOHNSON.

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR RAY H. TALBOT

*Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the
Thirty-first General Assembly of the state of Colorado:*

Our state is experiencing the rather unusual situation of having three Governors in a period of less than fifteen days. Former Governor Johnson, now United States Senator Johnson, whose message you have just heard, in answer to the overwhelming vote of the people of this state left last week to assume the duties of the office to which the people of the state of Colorado promoted him. In leaving to accept his new responsibilities Senator-elect Johnson tendered to me his resignation as Governor of Colorado and by virtue of being Lieutenant-Governor I became Governor on Saturday last. Next Tuesday Honorable Teller Ammons by virtue of his election will become Governor of Colorado for the ensuing term.

I cannot conceive of any lover of Democracy who could fail to appreciate the honor of serving as Governor of our great state even though it be for the brief period of ten days and may I here record a full measure of appreciation of the honor that has come to me in this extra-ordinary situation. In appearing here today to greet you briefly I do so with a full understanding of your obligation and responsibilities as legislators.

I served as what might be termed a logical apprenticeship in state government. Ten years ago I came to serve in the House of Representatives. Two years later I entered upon a four-year term in the state Senate and for the past four years I served as Lieutenant-Governor and today it is my great privilege to very briefly and in very general terms discuss with you responsibilities confronting us both as citizens and public servants of this state.

Immediately upon taking the oath of office as Governor, the representatives of the press inquired of me my program, to which I made the following reply: "I shall do everything possible to coordinate the close of Governor Johnson's program with the objectives of Governor-elect Ammons. I will try to carry out whatever details were left by Johnson and then swing into Ammons' program. I will confer with Teller during the next several days to ascertain how I may best help to

start off his term." And it is exactly in this spirit of helpfulness that I address you today.

Our country has been passing through trying times and it is safe to say that nine out of every ten homes have felt the ravages of the depression both in economic and social sense.

The up-hill road has been rocky and the way ahead is still steep, we must not allow ourselves to be seduced again into the conditions that led to catastrophe.

Greed and speed have become the two all powerful slave drivers that are flogging the American public. Shall materialism remain our curse forever?

Let us measure our fellow men not by the size of their bank accounts but by their capacity to help each other bear the burdens and share the joys of life. There can be no depression in a nation whose soul refuses to be depressed.

Our state in common with the nation faces grave problems and heavy responsibilities if we are to effect recovery and prevent recurrence of the social and economic dislocations of the past several years.

You as members of the Legislature have an unusual opportunity for real service to the people of Colorado. This same opportunity is accorded to every administrative officer in every division of state and local government. May I urge upon every public official of our great state a full measure of devotion to public service and an appreciation of the Democratic ideal of cooperation.

Election is over, personal differences should be forgotten, those who have been chosen for public service are to serve all the people. Team work is essential to the welfare of Colorado and her people.

May I proffer my service in any way that I can be helpful and may I urge for Governor-elect Ammons, to his associate state officers a full measure of cooperation. And in closing may I wish to you, the members of the Thirty-first General Assembly and to every other public official, a successful and appreciated administration.

Respectfully,

RAY H. TALBOT.

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