Inaugural address of DANIEL JACKSON EVANS sixteenth governor of the State of Washington
Delivered to the thirty-ninth Legislature meeting in joint session at the capitol in Olympia, Washington, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the 13th day of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five.
We Must Grow United

But a state cannot grow with labor divided from industry, or East divided from West, or city divided from country. We must grow united, with faith in the institutions of free enterprise, confidence in our elected leadership and a willingness to share not only in the fruits of progress but in the responsibilities of citizenship as well.

Today our state is on the threshold of a great future. A future which holds out the promise of growth for her business and industry, security for her people and integrity for her government.

But as with any threshold, the opportunity to go forward or backward is equal. How we choose to proceed now, for the next fifty-seven days of this legislature and for the four years after that, will in good measure, determine whether this state will go forward; or whether—when the burden of choice was ours—we chose the easier, more politically secure path.

No Interest But the People’s

This administration brings to office no commitment except to the people, no interest except the people’s.

It does bring and shall retain the highest regard for the legislature. I shall never mistake deliberation for disinterest nor compromise for weakness.

It is with these thoughts that I now turn to the tasks which lie ahead.

We are at this moment experiencing great challenges—challenges which test an administration, a legislature and a people.

To meet these challenges, we cannot be leisurely when the times call for action.
**A Search for Excellence**

We cannot be content with mediocrity when our search must be for excellence.

We cannot be complacent when the economy requires new thrust.

We cannot be provincial when problems and opportunities cross state boundaries.

We cannot be blind to the growing requirements of health and welfare. Nor can we be indifferent to the dangers of stifling competitive spirit.

We cannot solve the problems of the present with the outworn dogmas of the past.

**We Must Be Bold**

We must be bold in charting our course, resolute in our determination, compassionate in our assessment of human needs, firm in our policies, just in our laws and efficient in our administration.

The program of this administration is directed toward progress, not partisanship. The “Blueprint for Progress” which I have outlined over the past six months, and which I will now be submitting to the legislature, was founded upon the needs of the State of Washington, not upon political expediency.

**A Blueprint for Progress**

Foremost among these are the educational needs of our children. In relation to the needs in our past, our schools have performed well. If they are to fulfill education’s promise for our children’s future, however, they will require increasing attention from the legislature, including increased and more regularly-assured financial support.
Education's problems are complex. Many, such as sound financing and the search for the most effective relationship among the various levels of public education, are not new.

I will submit for your consideration legislation to equalize, ultimately, the level of local tax support for our school districts and to eliminate their reliance upon annual special levies to sustain day-to-day operations.

A Council on Colleges

I will recommend specific legislation to establish an Advisory Council on Higher Education. This will assure greater coordination among our public colleges, universities and our growing system of community colleges.

I commend for your study and favorable action the recommendations which will be placed before you to increase the number of community colleges in the immediate years ahead and to prepare for the addition of another four-year institution of higher learning.

The long-range financing of school building construction must be resolved to meet projected enrollments.

Today's Schools: Today's Dollars

The ruling of the State Supreme Court and prudent fiscal policy demands that we no longer rely on state bonded debt for school financing. We must begin to pay for today's construction with today's dollars.

I urge passage of a constitutional amendment, which will free future Permanent School Fund monies for school construction.

Many other legislative proposals designed to improve professional standards, to raise the status of the
teaching profession and to encourage a higher level of efficiency and performance in our educational system will be before you this session.

**Most Worthy of Deliberation**

In my view, there is no other single area of government, no other public service for which we are responsible, that is more important to our future or more worthy of your deliberation.

If education is of the highest priority, it is essential that the expansion of our economy be considered no less a goal. One without the other serves no purpose. If we cannot import and expand our industry then we will surely be forced to export our educated youth.

**Opportunity to Prosper**

This administration will seek to untangle the web of restrictions and inconsistencies which plague our efforts to attract new business, to seek tax solutions which encourage the location of new industries and permit those who locate here the maximum opportunity to prosper.

Further this administration will seek new markets for state commerce both at home and abroad. At home, no market offers more promise than that of nuclear energy. The great story now unfolding in the Tri-City area has only begun. In the immediate months and years to come we must build wisely and well.

This administration and this legislature must be prepared to take the action necessary to assure the maximum development of this great resource so that Washington becomes the nation's center of nuclear industry, its center of brainpower and manpower—tapping the vast frontiers of the space age.
New Markets Abroad

Abroad lie still other markets, closer in proximity to Washington than to any other state. Our future prosperity depends in good measure on an increasing export trade. This administration will create a Division of Foreign Trade within the Department of Commerce, including a permanent sales representative in the Orient.

Finally, this administration will join with private enterprise and with other states of the Northwest to coordinate our tourist advertising and promote our multi-million dollar tourist business in an aggressive "partnership of the Northwest."

A growing economy strives for full employment of the labor force, yet we all recognize that compensation to the unemployed is a factor with which government must deal.

A Human Factor in Economics

Because it is a human factor, the objective of unemployment compensation is to provide for the temporary needs of the truly deserving.

Because it is an economic factor the objective is to do so without placing an unnecessary burden on the employers of the state.

Therefore I will propose legislation which will increase benefits to those members of the labor force actively seeking re-employment without increasing costs to the employer.

An Economic Catalyst

State government is no substitute for a productive, organized labor force and an intelligent, progressive management. But state government can be a catalyst,
a leader in bringing together the many diverse elements of our economy—private and public, association and institution—and uniting them in the mutually profitable cause of growth.

This administration will serve to help and not hinder, to work with all who ask for assistance in bringing new industry to Washington, and to lessen the burden currently imposed on firms which already do business within our borders.

A Need for Understanding

The question of human needs will continue to rise again and again as this state—and every state—faces the problems created by a complex society and an ever-increasing population. This will be an administration that cares deeply and will act forthrightly in this area.

It is the responsibility of government—the responsibility of all of us—to make provisions for an effective, vital program to deal with a wide range of human needs, whether they be the search for equality, the need for medical care, the welfare of children or aid for the handicapped.

No area of government evokes more response than this; yet in no other area is there a greater opportunity for good or a more pressing need for understanding.

A Measure of Maturity

If we are to have a healthy and prosperous state, if we are to realize the vision of a fully productive society then we must act accordingly. Not out of a sense of pity, not out of condescension nor of superiority, but in recognition of the fact that our modern society does create problems and that these problems require solutions.

The ability of a state to provide adequately for the needs of its less fortunate citizens is not a sign of weakness but a measure of maturity.
Modern Concept in Care

To lessen the ever-increasing load on our institutions, community health centers should be established. This concept in care for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded emphasizes training and treatment rather than institutional confinement. It allows treatment close to home and will give better use of the tax dollar.

I urge that the state purchase Harrison Memorial Hospital at Bremerton, a facility which can become an integral part of this program. Adequate legislation for the care and protection of dependent and handicapped children must also be enacted.

Pursuit of Equality

There is no question that responsible government must move forcefully in the field of civil rights. It will either be our task or the task of those who follow. This administration firmly believes that the responsibility is ours. All citizens—regardless of race—are entitled to equal opportunity, including the opportunity for employment and for adequate and accessible housing open to all.

The pursuit of equality must not be an attempt to diminish the individual rights of some; rather it must be to assure the civil rights of all.

This administration will use executive action where appropriate and encourage legislative action where necessary to secure these ends. I will propose therefore, that legislation be adopted which will make access to housing open to all while retaining and safeguarding the constitutional right of the individual home owner.

Let no one say that any of us—the legislature, the administration or the citizens of this state—has failed, or will fail, to be sensitive to social needs or be unwilling to embark upon responsive and responsible solutions to the problems they present.
Restore Power to People

Our cities and counties have been hampered in their performance of traditional services by constitutional restrictions and hamstrung in their ability to provide newly demanded services.

This is one of two fundamental reasons why I will request this legislature to set in motion the machinery necessary to convene a constitutional convention at the earliest possible date.

The other fundamental reason relates to our state-federal relations. It is the view of this administration that the greatest threat to basic freedom for individuals and basic integrity and independence for state and local government is the increasing usurpation of traditionally local and state authority by the federal government.

No responsible person, including your governor, denies the desirability or legitimacy of federal participation in many state and local programs today. However, I do view with increasing apprehension, the encroachment of federal activity in areas traditionally served by the state—areas which the state is perfectly capable of serving when its governmental machinery is in order.

Resolve Our Own Problems

Unless we re-design the machinery of government to enable the state and its local units to meet the legitimate demands of its citizens for services, they will increasingly turn to the federal level for aid and increasingly find, in return, control.

We must modernize our constitutional machinery. We must equip ourselves with the tools to resolve our traditionally state and local problems. To do less will result in our people serving as pallbearers at the funeral of state and local government.

The strength of our free society is dependent upon the vitality of our legislative process. I urge the legis-
lature to consider the enactment of proposals which will reform and strengthen its legislative interim committee structure and to provide adequate compensation for its members.

New Needs: New Machinery

To administer expensive programs with outdated and outmoded machinery is folly. To ignore new needs and new requirements is to court disaster.

To meet these needs and fulfill these requirements I propose we establish:

A Department of Transportation to deal with the problems of moving people and goods from one place to another.

A Department of Motor Vehicles to consolidate the motor vehicle functions of the License Department, the Highway Department and the State Patrol.

A Department of Water Resources to coordinate the management and protection of our state's number one resource. We should also join with other states of the Northwest in a proper interstate agreement to safeguard the regional use of our water.

State government owes to the people not only administrative efficiency but fiscal responsibility.

Strict Accounting

To provide a running account of the cost of legislative proposals I will recommend that each bill committing the state to an expenditure carry a fiscal note identifying the cost of the proposal. Further I will support a constitutional amendment setting a realistic ceiling on the state's debt.
In our concern with providing the tools for efficient government we must not forget that many problems can better be solved at the local level. Neither can we neglect the vast reservoir of talent among our citizens. I will submit to the legislature a home-rule amendment to give local units of government the authority and the financial ability to solve local problems at home.

In future weeks I will ask for a comprehensive review of state government organization and direction, utilizing the enormous talents of Washington's business and professional community.

**Clean, Ethical Government**

My "Blueprint for Progress" also contains a series of requests which will, if enacted, assure the citizens of Washington that this administration is operating on principles of clean and ethical government.

There is no justification in allowing politics to be the determining factor in the appointment of estate appraisers or of liquor representatives. This administration will seek to eliminate these abusive practices through executive and legislative action.

There is no reason why all political candidates should not disclose all campaign funds received and spent by them. This administration will work to enact such a full disclosure law.

There is no merit to a Code of Ethics Law which applies to some, but not to all, and which is rendered ineffective by a one-year statute of limitations. This administration will support a revision of the Ethics Law which extends the limitation period and includes all branches of state government—the office of Governor and the legislature not excluded.
To Earn People's Confidence

Without such legislation, government cannot expect to earn the people's confidence. Without the people's confidence, state government cannot expect to succeed. It is time for the government of this state, which exercises a great public trust, to be trusted by the public it serves.

Beyond the basic framework of the "Blueprint" are programs in a number of areas which will require the attention of the legislature.

I ask the two houses to consider carefully matters which directly concern the administration of justice, including the elimination of capital punishment from our statutes, the raising of salaries for judges of the Supreme Court and of the Superior Courts and a simplification of probate procedures to speed the settling of small estates.

I will ask this legislature to consider the entire matter of taxation and state revenue with respect to how well we are prepared to carry out all of the necessary and desirable programs of state government.

Face Up to Responsibility

In order to assure that future generations will not bear the full responsibility of paying for the programs we initiate—so that our state will not follow others to the brink of bankruptcy—we must face the fact now that increased government services may require increased revenues.

No administration seeks to raise taxes. It would rather hope that growth and an expanding economy will provide the necessary monies. But occasionally an administration, in exercising its public trust, may find an increase the only reasonable and prudent alternative.

The problems of today—and the opportunities—cannot always be met by borrowing against tomorrow,
and the State of Washington is now rapidly approaching the time when a decision must be made.

I will shortly submit a separate budget message to the legislature. It will not be a budget balanced by speculative federal programs nor will it shirk its responsibilities to provide adequate funds where they are necessary. It will be an honest budget that will face up to the needs of the state and the requirements of fiscal integrity.

**New Transportation Concepts**

The problems of transportation are great; they will become greater. With a newly organized Department of Transportation we will be taking a much needed step toward moving people and goods more efficiently and more rapidly across and throughout our state. I will seek action to speed up our state freeway construction timetable, to establish proper statewide priorities for future freeway systems and I will ask the legislature's approval for a third Lake Washington bridge which will include provisions for rapid transit.

Working with the State Patrol and with local law enforcement agencies, I will institute a crusade for safe driving to cut the senseless slaughter on our state's highways. To this end I will propose a major increase in state troopers and I commend to the legislature the highway safety proposals of the Highway Interim Committee.

**A Cultural Revolution**

As we in this state face great opportunities for progress in the areas I have outlined, so do we face great challenges in providing for the use of our leisure time. We are in the midst of a cultural revolution. Opportunities once reserved to only a select few may now be enjoyed by all.
Although nothing will stifle the creative spirit more quickly than an official policy in this area I believe government has an important function to perform. This administration will take an active and vital interest in providing the appropriate atmosphere for the enjoyment of our new leisure. Among the ways this interest will be expressed is by endorsing adequate appropriations for legitimately constituted governmental agencies such as the State Arts Commission.

**Conserve Our Heritage**

No less important, we must assure that our heritage of great mountains, extensive shoreline, inland lakes, rivers and game ranges is conserved and properly developed. A great step forward was taken by the passage of Initiative 215. This administration is prepared to implement fully its provisions.

Finally, I urge the legislature to pass promptly a legislative redistricting bill which will obey the mandates of the state and federal constitutions, provide equitable representation for all areas of the state and insure that the party which wins a majority of the votes will win a majority of the seats in the legislature.

The fundamental areas of the "Blueprint for Progress" are clear. We now face the difficult task of turning words into deeds and the proposals into accomplishments.

**To Exercise Leadership**

We have not come to Olympia to perpetuate a conflict of parties. Rather we have come here to undertake the important job of governing a great state.

We have come here to exercise leadership, to bring the public and the private interests together, to witness the beginning, if not the final realization, of a great future.
I will not ask this legislature to lay aside the convictions of party; only that it support the needs of progress. For the success of the next two years will not be measured by how well we opposed one another but how successfully we united to promote the common welfare of the people. It will not be measured by the length of our debates, but by the results they obtain. Nor will it be measured by how well we have served our parties; only by how well our parties have served the people.

**Promise Lies Before Us**

This administration believes steadfastly in the future; that our promise lies not in the past, but before us. This administration will not shy away from new ideas, for as we begin our deliberations here we can never fail to reckon with the opportunities of responsible change or with the requirements of changing responsibility.

This administration is not frightened by the word "liberal," nor is it ashamed of the word "conservative." It does not believe that the words "fiscal responsibility" are old fashioned nor will it ever fear to spend money if money needs to be spent.

And finally, this administration is firmly committed to progress and to the principle that government—wisely and justly administered—can be an effective instrument of the people and for the public good.

**Let Us Begin Anew**

Today’s problems require fresh, positive solutions and this administration will do everything within its legitimate province, request anything within its power and bear any burden necessary to assure that these solu-
tions are offered to the people of the state of Washington.

Let us, therefore, each of us as citizens, as legislators, and as members of a new administration dedicate ourselves to the tasks which lie ahead in a new spirit of confidence and a new trust between people and their government.

With an abiding faith in God, and in this country, this state and its people, let us begin anew.
“this is a time......
of high purpose”

Daniel Jackson Evans