

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Fifty-Seventh  
Legislative Assembly, Distinguished Guests, and Fellow Citizens:

Oregon is an inspiration. Whether you come to it or are born to it, you fall spellbound by this state's beauty, the opportunities it affords, and the kindness of its citizens.

Oregon is an inspiration even to those who do not come here to live. The story of Oregon's Willamette River -- our ecological <sup>D</sup>Easter -- has drawn cries of hurrah! from the Nation and many parts of the world. And we have heard, along with the applause for Oregon, the lamentations for states where ~~progress~~ progress has fallen prey to excess compromise.

Oregon is an inspiration to people elsewhere who believe they have no voice in government. The most intensive self-interest pressure ~~ever~~ brought to bear on the Oregon Legislature <sup>in two decades</sup> was by lobbyists in 1971 who declared that the bottle and can ~~law~~ deposit law must not ~~pass~~ pass. But it did pass, because Oregonians were inspired by an idea that had become an ideal.

You and I can't say that we love Oregon more than anyone else, but we love this State as much as those who say they love it the most. Our thoughts today and in the deliberations to come will spring forward from our determination to keep Oregon lovable and make it more livable.

This is the last occasion that I will appear in this seat of dedication asking enactment of a comprehensive package of laws covering all fields of human endeavor. I will appear before you again, but not with such ~~a~~ a wide array of targets as today and in the few months ahead.



You have listened in the past with more than pro forma politeness, and I ~~am~~ appreciate your attention today even more because the message is greater still. *This is the 12th Oregon Legislative Session and we have split* It seems as if we always are saying this is the critical time, the crucial time, but I can use no other words to describe this point in history.

I will propose to you in this session measures of ~~staggering~~ *PIVOTAL* significance. Yet there is no idea behind this that we must build a record for posterity. Over the years you and I and our fellow ~~citizens~~ citizens of Oregon have brought about imaginative change that well could serve as our memorial.

But modern society permits us no time to caress our successes. Society is not static, and government must be able to respond capably and fairly to emergent crises. The people of Oregon have expectations and they are looking to their government for fulfillment.

The Legislature and your Governor -- with ~~the~~ *the expectations* of the people as our guideline -- have done more to effect the destiny of Oregon than any citizens since those whose names you find emblazoned on the upper walls of these chambers. We have established the pattern that now commands us to take one more great forward leap to protect the fabric of life through the rest of this century.

~~But~~ *our* while ~~our~~ record is good it is not ~~completely~~ completely written, and we have proved that we can do more.

In my first inaugural address I said: "An imperative of progress in these years is a rapport between the executive and legislative branches." I was ~~pleased~~ *pleased* to say to you four years later that the lines of communication have been opened, and that "in Oregon we have the most meaningful rapport between the legislative and executive branches

in any of the 50 states."

Today we still cling to the belief that reasonable men and women can cure the complex ills of society -- and that no problem can elude an enlightened people's search for a solution.

So it is that we now tackle that misshapen creation of our own making -- our tax structure for the support of schools.

We all are conscious of the grave inequities of educational finance. Some of our people are able to provide only minimum schooling for their children even though they shoulder a massive property tax burden. We are confronted by the truism that taxes on homes for the support of school operating costs bear no relationship to the ability to pay. We have seen ~~this~~ this tax ~~overwhelm~~ overwhelm the poor and the elderly, and begin to devastate the middle-income taxpayer as well.

On other occasions I have described tax reform as the greatest challenge to the 57th ~~Legislative~~ Legislative Assembly. To assist you in meeting that challenge I will send to you tomorrow <sup>or Wed</sup> a special message outlining the tax reform I propose, and the formula for distributing ~~state~~ state-produced revenue to the public schools.

Enhancing the quality of life is the lodestar of this Administration. <sup>It has reigned as our No. 1 priority in every legislative message -- and between</sup>  
Inherent in this is the kind of tax structure we have, the quality of <sup>for six</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>years</sup>  
homes in which we live, the cleanliness of our air and water,  
and whether we provide ~~bring~~ affirmative assistance to <sup>less able to</sup> those who cannot assist themselves. True quality is absent if we allow social pollution to abide in a pristine environment.

The good life is attained when we become a free ~~people~~ and just people in a productive and soul-satisfying environment.



Reaching for that goal I have said I will support a proposal emanating from a legislative task force to create a Department of Economic Development to give that agency more visibility and strength. I have announced [redacted] my support for a \$200-million revenue bond issue to provide better housing for Oregonians and to stimulate the economy.

Our past record in enhancing the quality of life is [redacted] remarkably sound. Unification of social services agencies into a Department of Human Resources has given us a capacity for dealing with human problems that never before existed. The shakedown period has not been without its trials but we are farther ahead than we had any right to expect.

Key evidences of our reverence for the quality of life abound in Oregon. The level of educational attainment in Oregon has increased in the last six years from an average of [redacted] Community colleges have opened the doors of opportunity to thousands upon thousands more Oregonians. We have almost written the last word for all America in protecting our beaches. We've found ways to keep more of the mentally ill secure in their own communities and out of a sterile hospital environment.

We have established salmon runs where none [redacted] existed. [redacted] Last month we saw in the Elk River of Southern Oregon bright, heavy-bodied fish we sent to sea three [redacted] years ago, now swamping the [redacted] hatchery of their birth in a monumental achievement.

These are reflections of the determination of Oregon to [redacted] win quality in their lives. It means that after earning a living we have a living that is worthwhile. This thinking dominates our actions

and will continue to be uppermost in our planning.

As stout defenders of the environment, Oregonians have provided all appropriate safeguards -- except one.

The gravest threat to the environment and to the whole quality of life lies in unfettered spoiling of the land. Sagebrush subdivisions, coastal developments begun without vision, and disorderly growth in the Willamette Valley threaten to mock Oregon's status as the environmental model for the Nation.

We are dismayed that we have not stopped the waste of the land, our most finite natural resource. The land gives, and it needs no ravaging assault by man.

Umbrage at this blatant disrespect for sound planning is not taken only at Salem. Less than a month ago the Jefferson County commissioners appealed to me for a moratorium on subdivisions because the speculators had out-run the local capacity to plan.

We are in dire need of a state land-use policy, new subdivision laws, and new standards for planning and zoning by cities and counties. The interests of the many must be protected from the grasping of the few; we must respect the concept that unlimited growth leads only and ultimately to a lowered quality of life.

Within the next 30 days I will send you messages covering these and other principal topics related briefly in the biennial budget I have delivered to you.

I will ask you to consider how we may improve the economic climate for agriculture so that we may take advantage of the ground we've plowed on our trade missions. I will ask you to submit to the people a proposal for modifying the uses that we may make of the highway trust fund so that we may reduce the fiscal rigidity



that compresses our ability to provide an integrated transportation system.

I will ask further reorganization of state government, particularly for Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, and Public Safety. All of us are convinced that reorganization is politically pallid and even politically dangerous at times, yet we must forge new, more responsive relationships if government is to be truly effective. We cannot go vigorously into the next century with an antiquated form of government.

I will ask your approval of more than two dozen traffic safety measures -- measures that come on the heels of the greatest highway death toll in the history of this fair State.

I will ask you to shield the press from legal fishing expeditions. Recent national forays against the Fourth Estate bring us to the conclusion that the newsman-source protections we have taken as a matter of right now must be made a matter of law.

As one who has widely traveled and who has been broadly misquoted elsewhere, I can assure you that the Oregon media have no peer for accuracy. We are thankful for the Oregon press, for without its accuracy in interpreting our actions and motivations to the people we would operate in a vacuum, hearing nothing and going unheard.

Without an open Legislature, and an open Administration, we surely would arouse in the people suspicion, first, and then distrust, then bitterness, then complacency, and then apathy. We cannot afford any of these because we need the trust and participation of the people.

Your legislative committees, interim committees and task forces are seeing the people speak up in ever-increasing numbers. The boards



and commissions I have the honor to appoint also see true participatory Democracy stirring again.

The age of volunteerism has had a re-dawning. More than 2,000 volunteers have attached themselves to programs of the Department of Human Resources alone, giving a piece of their lives to those who ~~desperately~~ desperately need to share.

All of this is because the people are now convinced that we are sincere when we say they can make a difference, that they have a role in shaping their government.

Aristotle observed that the "state exists for the sake of ~~the~~ a good life." The people know as well as we what comprises a good life, and thank God that they are telling us.

When the activities of government are worthy, and when the results are so visible, the burden of taxation seems lighter, and citizens take pride in their contribution to government. Thomas Jefferson advised us: "That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part."

The people are making themselves a part of government at a time when they are urgently needed, a time when we are passing again to the age of ~~self-determination~~ self-determination by the states.

Many of us grew up in the days of the Federal largesse, but we now see revenue sharing as the ~~end~~ <sup>beginning of the</sup> end of the open pocketbook. We must commend the President for seeking to halt deficit spending, but we despair to find it is at the cost of environmental and people programs.

The President is caught among a demanding public, an irresponsible Congress, and his own philosophical persuasions, and somehow Oregon and most other states are lost in the national



blue-footing. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ A balance will be found but we must largely fend for ourselves, and we can.

*For September 1973 will be year? record all year*

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Late in the last year we became assured that we will head into a biennium, at last, where we are not facing ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ instant fiscal chaos. Without increasing taxes we will have resources to overcome some pressing problems of the past and without borrowing trouble for the future.

*lie*

Never does enough money ~~lay~~ *lie* at our fingertips to do what the public justly demands. And the demands change and grow, yet we must forecast both the fiscal position and society's wishes 30 months hence.

Consequently I am in agreement with the proposal that I call a special session of the Legislature next January to deal with fiscal matters. But it is a promise I cannot now make. Circumstances may well dictate a special ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ legislative session before that time, or after it.

I am committed to legislation that would provide for annual sessions of the Legislature, but I cannot make a pledge to begin that tradition until we have met our campaign promise to achieve tax reform.

Legislators and I, and the people of Oregon, have talked together of a number of improvements we must make in the laws and in the conditions in which we live. Many of the ideas we have discussed are not ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ new, *and a* look at the past ~~to~~ *3* illuminate the road to the future.

Samuel W. McCall was a Congressman and a three-term Governor of Massachusetts. Last year I was presented with a valuable -- to me --



bound copy of the <sup>second of three</sup> inaugural address<sup>es</sup> this grandfather of mine made to the 1917 Massachusetts Legislative Assembly.

That Governor McCall urged ~~the~~ compulsory health insurance, improvements in the workmen's compensation system, construction of a Governor's residence, consolidation of government agencies, cost of living controls, renewed attention to traffic safety, and prohibition of billboards along scenic highways *and creation of new highway greenways*

He suggested a greenway concept for a new road, asked for money to finance a constitutional revision commission, and urged the abolition of capital punishment, prevention of drug abuse, and new protections for consumers.

He called attention to the coming ~~the~~ Tricentennial of the landing of the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock -- a near counterpart to our coming Bicentennial observance of the founding of the United States.

In his closing, Governor Samuel McCall made a statement applicable today as it was then, and as applicable to Oregon as to Massachusetts. Governor McCall said:

"If regard is had to the traditions of the Commonwealth and the character of her people, there is no place upon the globe that has title to be governed by wiser laws. Is she to have the sort of government to which she is entitled? It rests with us to give answer. Let us reverence the mandate we have received from the people. Let it be our aim to do deeds which shall ~~take~~ take their place with the best things in our history and be an incentive and a challenge to those who shall come after us. The power which we wield does not belong to us but to those who put it in our hands. And unless we shall use it solely for the



public weal we shall fall far short of performing our duty."

In Oregon, our accomplishments of the next moments, days and months will be -- as before -- the ~~the~~ result of the labors of ~~the~~ people who gave the best of themselves, ~~the labors~~ of public servants who put the common good ahead of personal or party interest.

We will not accomplish all that we as individuals believe that we should, for there must be conciliation, mediation and compromise even upon the noblest of thoughts. Yet we will give the utmost of ourselves to fulfill rising expectations.

Fifty-five years ago Governor Samuel McCall spoke of a state rich in accomplishment. He spoke of an intelligent and prosperous people, a state towering in history and scenic beauty.

The torch has been passed from grandfather to grandson, and from Massachusetts to Oregon. But the idealism of 1917 applies equally in 1973 to this State, renowned in the world and precious to us all.

In his charge to the Legislative Assembly, Samuel McCall said of Massachusetts, and I say to you of Oregon, a state <sup>a/s</sup>rich in accomplishment, towering in history and scenic beauty, and the home of intelligent and prosperous people:

"For us to tarnish the lustre of a fame so ~~the~~ splendid would be shameful; not to diminish it would be a very great thing, but to augment it would be indeed ~~the~~ glory."

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