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INAUGURAL ADDRESS—HIS EXCELLENCY, THE
HONORABLE JOHN CARL WEST, GOVERNOR

"Nineteen Hundred-seventy was the year that the citizens of South Carolina marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of this state, and we now move with confidence and optimism into the Fourth Century of our stewardship of this land. Our Tri-centennial years was a time of reawakening to our history and heritage; it was a time of new awareness of the essential character and strength of the people of this state.

It was also a time to gain new understanding of our particular moment in history, and to view the past and the future with a new degree of sensitivity and perspective.

It was a time to realize that no state has produced more greatness in the character of its individual leaders; no state has given more freely of itself in the building of this great nation. But it was also a time to understand that ours is a history of people—of people who have known struggle and survival, disappointment and endurance, frustration and despair. We have emerged as a state in the twentieth century still limited in material attainment. But out of the trials and tests of the past, we have built a wealth of human and spiritual resources with which we can now look to our Fourth Century—a new Century of Progress for People.

As never before, we can look forward with confidence to a new era of achievement, to new milestones of accomplishment for our people, to a reawakened spirit of unity which should project our state to new heights of greatness, unparalleled in this state, or in any state at any time in history.

I make these statements not in the sense of the politician reaching for the easy superlative on a most memorable day. Instead, I speak with the assurance of one who senses an elevation of the spirits and renewed confidence of the people in themselves. I speak as one who has observed and experienced the resurgence of our state in recent years, and has detected the new energy and new determination present within the fiber of our people.

In the last decade, South Carolina has made more progress in every meaningful way than at any comparable period in her 300-year history. In fact, I challenge historians of today or tomorrow to match the progress that South Carolinians have made in the last ten years with that made by any state—including our own—in any hundred-year period of the past.

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If there has been a single factor which has influenced this phenomenal growth and progress more than any other, it has been the quality of leadership our state has had in the Office of Governor.

I should like to say especially to our retiring Governor, Robert E. McNair, that yours has been a period of unusual service and unprecedented accomplishment. You have served more consecutive years as Chief Executive than any Governor in the history of our state, but your place in the history books will be for reasons other than length of term. Yours will be recorded as a period in which this state experienced its greatest human advancement. By reason of your distinguished service, you will unquestionably be accorded a well-deserved place as one of the greatest governors who has ever served the State of South Carolina.

I would be remiss if I did not mention also the one who has not only been your helpmate, but one whose years as First Lady have brought new dimension to that position, and a new and lasting sense of pride for the people of South Carolina. Through such accomplishments as the restoration and furnishing of the Governor's Mansion, you have not only won national acclaim, but with your charm, grace and dignity, Mrs. McNair . . . Josephine . . . a lasting place has been won for you and your family in the hearts of all South Carolinians.

Thanks to the caliber of leadership South Carolina has experienced, the decade of the sixties was one of unparalleled progress for our people. But more importantly, it was a period in which the foundation was laid for the seventies—a foundation giving us the capacity to reach for and attain any goals to which we as a people may aspire.

Therefore, it is appropriate on this occasion marking the beginning of the New Century in South Carolina that we set for ourselves certain goals, goals whose urgency and priority at this moment in our history cannot be questioned. The time has arrived when South Carolina for all time must break loose and break free of the vicious cycle of ignorance, illiteracy and poverty which has retarded us throughout our history.

If to some these goals seem too lofty, impossible of achievement, or unrealistic, I submit that nothing is impossible if we unite together with energy, determination, and dedication toward a common cause.

We can, and we shall, in the next four years eliminate hunger and malnutrition, and their attendant suffering from our state.

We can, and we shall, in the next four years, initiate new and innovative programs which will in our time provide adequate housing for all our citizens.

We can, and we shall, this year initiate far-reaching programs to provide more doctors, nurses and health personnel as well as better systems for delivery of health care to each citizen. Our goal shall be that each citizen may live with proper protection from disease and proper treatment of illness for his full life expectancy.

We can, and we shall, in the next four years, eliminate from our government, any vestige of discrimination because of race, creed, sex, religion or any other barrier to fairness for all citizens.

We pledge to minority groups no special status other than full-fledged responsibility in a government that is totally color-blind.

We can, and we shall, accelerate programs of industrial and agricultural development until every citizen who is underemployed has the opportunity for full and rewarding employment, and every young person, has a job opportunity that is productive, meaningful and challenging.

We can, and we shall, strengthen our law enforcement system by providing better training, better pay and better equipment for our officers; by strengthening our laws and court procedures dealing with criminals; and by working for the removal of the root causes of crime.

We can, and we shall, seek and channel the energy, dedication and social consciousness of our young people into solving the problems of our times.

We do not need—and we cannot afford—an alienation of the generations, and I pledge that this will be an administration which actively seeks the involvement of the young and old alike.

We can, and we shall, in the next four years, take whatever action is necessary to assure the preservation of our living environment, and to provide the type of resource management which will make it possible for all interests in our society to live in harmony with each other. There need not be—and there shall not be—economic or ecological sacrifice in the progress of South Carolina in the next four years.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, we can, and we shall, provide a better educational opportunity for all citizens of whatever age or status, from a comprehensive pre-school program for the very young to a continuing educational program for adults ranging from basic literacy to sophisticated, advanced research-oriented graduate programs.

These goals, admittedly ambitious, are no more impossible of achievement than those articulated by the brave young President, John F. Kennedy, who stated so eloquently in 1961 that we could perform the seemingly impossible task of placing a man safely on the moon and returning within the decade of the sixties—a dream of man for untold centuries.

It has been just as much a dream that man one day could conquer the plague of human hunger and privation, and could live in peace and dignity with his fellow man. The fact that these conditions have been a part of man's recorded lot since Biblical times should make us no less determined to attack them with all our energy and capabilities in this decade.

The setting of these goals is in itself an important first step toward their ultimate accomplishment, and—in all candor—this first step is perhaps the easiest. Certainly it is the simplest. But if these words can launch our state into positive action, if they can unleash the energies of our people and their government toward solutions, then they will have proved to be a valuable first step.

More important than action and good intentions at this point must be the establishment of guiding principles to direct and channel our efforts in this undertaking. Basically, I see three principles to be of immediate and primary importance.

First, the goals, as stated, must be accorded priority status. In today's complex society with constantly increasing demands and expectations of people, there is a tendency to overlook fundamental problems, and to scattergun society's thrust on less essential, but more glamorous functions. In a state with limited financial resources, we must concentrate with laser beam accuracy on the basic human problems, using the constant criterion of Progress for People toward stated goals.

Second, the achievement of these goals can become a reality only if the people of this state unite and work together, putting aside differences of race, politics, generation, or other. Two

thousand years ago, the greatest philosopher and teacher who ever lived said, "And if a Kingdom be divided against itself, that Kingdom cannot stand, and if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." The politics of race and divisiveness have been soundly repudiated in South Carolina.

We are all one—God's people, and our differences—whether they be age, sex, religion or race—should be considered as blessings and strengths. As we work toward the elimination of discrimination, as we build toward a better life for all, as all the people of our state join together in this most noble of undertakings, perhaps we shall begin to realize the truths as expressed in the words of the hymn:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessing on your head.

Third, in directing our efforts toward achievements which have eluded man throughout his time on this earth, we must have the active involvement of all citizens. Government is but the instrument of the will of the people—having no power in and of itself; deriving not just its power, but its will and its effectiveness from its citizens. It is not our purpose to change that relationship; it is our goal to strengthen it. What we outline today in terms of human progress are not simply governmental projects. If we are to eliminate hunger, provide better housing, improve the delivery of health care for all, we must have the deep involvement and commitment of the private sector working in close cooperation with the public sector and providing necessary support from our whole free enterprise system.

If we are to bring the generations together, if we are to eliminate discrimination, it requires more than a law or mandate from government. Basic to all our hopes and aspirations is the willingness of our people to accept change, and to gain a new respect for the opinions and the rights of all people.

Providing a better education for all, especially within our present limited tax sources, requires new and innovative concepts, the most important aspect of which will be the voluntary involvement of citizens in the educational program.

As we address ourselves to Progress for People, it is implicit that I am also talking about Progress by People. It is most important that each citizen recognize his responsibility and his opportunity to participate in Progress for People, and to make the years ahead rewarding and fulfilling, and . . .

I pledge to each of you, my fellow South Carolinians, on this the most important day of my life, every ounce of strength, every talent which I possess, to move with you toward these goals for a better life for all South Carolinians and a new and brighter era in the history of our state."

THE HOUSE RESUMES

At 12:56 p.m. the House resumed, the Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. McALHANY moved that the House do now adjourn which was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:58 p.m. the House, in accordance with the motion of Mr. McALHANEY adjourned (to meet at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1971 (Statewide Session)

The House assembled at 11:00 A.M.

The Clerk called the roll.

The SPEAKER took the Chair and deliberations were opened with prayer by the Chaplain as follows:

O Almighty God, as we begin another day in this forum of government, we humbly bow at this sacred shrine of prayer, asking for these who have been elected to high positions of leadership to be given open ears that they may hear voices calling to high endeavors; open minds, ready to welcome and receive new light and truth as they are revealed to them; open eyes, quick to discover Thine indwelling in the wonderous world which Thou hast made; open hands, ready to share, as they hold all things as a trust from Thee to be used in service to our fellowmen.

In Thy blessed Name we pray. Amen.

There being no correction to the Journal of Tuesday's proceeding the SPEAKER ordered it confirmed.

MEMBER-ELECT SWORN IN

Mr. JAMES C. JOSEPH, SR., Member-elect from Charleston County, presented his credentials and the oath of office was administered unto him by the Speaker.

H. 1102—CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

The Senate returned to the House with amendments the following.

H. 1102.—Messrs. Riley, Dangerfield Condon, Hartnett, Goodstein and Fielding: A Concurrent Resolution providing for a joint session of the General Assembly on Wednesday, January 27, 1971, at 12:30 P.M. to elect a successor to The Honorable Clyde F. Boland, Member of the South Carolina Public Service Commission from the First District, whose term expires in 1971.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the General Assembly shall meet in joint session on Wednesday, January 27, 1971, at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing a successor to The Honorable Clyde F. Boland, member of the South Carolina Public Service Commission from the First District, whose term expires in 1971.

The Senate amendments were concurred in and a message was sent to the Senate accordingly.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to this House the following:

S. 77.—Senators Gressette, Brown, Harris, Bonner, Bristow, Brockington, Carter, Chapman, Dennis, Drummond, Floyd, Charles G. Garrett, Gordon H. Garrett, Garrison, Gasque, Grimes, Harrelson, Holland, Lake, Laughlin, Long, Martin, McDonald, McMillan, Moore, Morris, Mozingo, Owens, Rentiers, Richardson, Riley, Roddey, Rubin, Scarborough, Schumacher, Smith, Stephen, Stevens, Waddell, Wallace, Williams, Wofford and Zeigler: A Concurrent Resolution expressing the shock and disapproval of the General Assembly over the recent lawless events in Bennettsville, South Carolina in which Senator John Lindsay's wife was severely wounded.

Whereas, the General Assembly was shocked to learn of the unprovoked, premeditated and senseless kidnapping attempt of