

State of the State
Governor George Nigh
January 7, 1986

Lieutenant Governor Bernard
President Pro Tempore Randle
Speaker Barker
Members of the Second Session of the
Fortieth Legislature

I want to welcome all of you back to your home away from home to tell you that I look forward to working with you as we try to concentrate on the solutions rather than the problems of the state of Oklahoma; and to tell you that when I checked the weather this morning it was cold enough that we could have had an inauguration.

I was thinking about how things have happened and how things change and I wanted to announce a couple of things in advance before anything serious.

The budget books are out. Each year we get in a great argument as to what the cover of the books should be. We've done OU RED and COWBOY ORANGE, we've done state bicentennial green. This year the budget book cover is in honor for the first time of members of the Legislature. In recognition of George Osborne and Dale Patrick they are in black and blue.

I wanted to note with interest that Senator Randle is having a poor boy bean dinner tonight. Those of you who have not been invited this time, let me tell you that you're welcome. I presume he's going to have enough beans for everyone, its during the Speaker's reception I noticed with a great deal of interest (although I'm not the one to invite you – if he invites you, you go) – but I did notice with a great deal of interest that he has announced, Senator, that there will be nine percent less beans this year. But if you had listened to me, like I told everybody else, if you had carried forward 4.5 percent, we wouldn't have had to cut back so much tonight on your beans.

I wanted to tell Speaker Barker that the legislative leadership breakfast still goes Mr. Speaker, even though you wanted to do it by telephone conference call. We're still going to meet at the Mansion because if we went by telephone conference call I would never know whether it was you or Larry Stein from KTOK.

I want to tell Lt. Governor how good it is to see him. It's so seldom he and I are in the country at the same time.

SHORT, PRODUCTIVE LEGISLATIVE SESSION NEEDED

But here we are in a session that hope that can be addressed with two goals. Each is dependent in my opinion on the other. We should not have one without the other. I think the two basic goals of this legislative session should be short and productive. You cannot be short without being productive. You should not try to be productive without being short. One should go with the other. If we address the issues from the very beginning, as I know that you can because I know each of you personally and your dedication to the state of Oklahoma, I think with the realization that this state has tough times, that we can perceive ahead – we can go into the future working together and trying to do it productively but as I said in short order.

LET'S NOT JUDGE MOTIVES OF OTHERS

I also would caution us as we go through life to look particularly in the political life, not to spend so much time judging the motives of others. Each of us should speak for ourselves as to what we really mean when we propose something. Only each of us individually can actually vouch a hundred percent sure of what we really mean when we say something. I do not think that in this legislative session or executive branch of government that we have the time to spend questioning the motives of each other. We should spend our time trying to work together in a cooperative spirit.

STRONGER SENSE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation comes with four short sentences. Cooperation, that with each recognizing the problems. Cooperation with each trying to understand it. Cooperation with trying to resolve it. Cooperation with each trying to help. We should address this tough time budget, this tough time year with a stronger sense of cooperation that we've ever had at anytime in our personal or political careers.

BALANCED BUDGET REQUIRED

I'm the first to point out that not all good ideas trickle down. Many if not more percolate up. But the Constitution requires that the Governor submit a balanced budget. The President has a little luxury that I don't have. He doesn't have to balance his submitted plan. Congress has a little bit of luxury that you don't have. They don't have to balance their budget. But here in Oklahoma, thank goodness, and thank the good common sense of the people of Oklahoma the Governor is required in January to submit a balanced budget. The Legislature is required to have that budget balanced when they adjourn. And if it isn't balanced we go through the constitutional process of reduction of expenditures.

We should all be committed to working together, realizing that we're not supposed to have all the answers at the outset. One of the most frustrating things that I have – I think that you've probably also would have – is people ask you about how do you feel about a subject. You'd like to have a little reservation. You'd kind of like to know what the facts

are. You'd like to withhold judgment a little longer. Remember the press of time to give a definitive answer. Many times we're called upon to make a statement that in retrospect might not have been the exact correct statement we would have made. So I think we should understand that as I submit my budget to you – it's not that that's the answer, it obviously is not. That (the budget) is a viewpoint, a blue print, a working plan, a foundation upon which to build or to correct or to change and then jointly together in a cooperative spirit trying to address a solution to the problems that this state has. None of us has the perfect answer. I don't try to have. But I'm required to submit to you a budget and we should go from there and work out the best that we can.

CONSENSUS – COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

We should also try to arrive at the understanding that consensus is not necessarily a dirty word. We don't all see things the same way. I've heard Senator Stipe several times in his humor talk how the chandelier and about buying a new chandelier broke up a church. One third couldn't spell it. A third couldn't pronounce it and the other third what they really needed was a new light. And I think that we are at that place that when we say we have a problem or solution the we sometimes get divided into the fact that well here is this side and here is this side and here is this side -when the main goal should be from the very beginning trying to work toward cooperative spirit and a consensus and something that will pass and something that is acceptable and something that is fair and something that can be signed.

FY 87 BUDGET 9% LESS THAN CURRENT BUDGET

The budget that I submitted to you is a factual budget based upon the realization that we're going to have 9% approximately less to appropriate next year for operations than we had this year. That is the bad news. The good news will come when we try to preserve as much of the progress as we can that we have made have through dramatic years in this body, In this joint effort that you've had as Legislators and as a Governor. And I might add that. with the overwhelming support of the majority of the people of Oklahoma, all be it there are those who are not satisfied whatsoever and basically there will always be those who are not. We will not be satisfied with our end results if we demand perfection. We should work toward perfection, we should demand excellence.

The budget that we have submitted to you takes a broad brush approach. There is going to be 9% less – that means that we have to reduce appropriations. There will not be in (anyone's opinion that I know in this chamber, either speaking to you or listening to me, on the floor or in the gallery or in the media through the press) and I know of no one who is advocating a tax increase. Therefore, we must live within the revenue. The revenue that has been at this time estimated officially – but knowing that that figure will not be exactly correct because the people of the State of Oklahoma changed the Constitution at our request and said that they will give us a later update in February as they continue to reevaluate the conditions economically of the State of Oklahoma. As we check the price of oil, as we see what the farmers are doing, as we should be from the very beginning trying to work toward cooperative spirit and a consensus and something that will pass and something that is fair and something that can be signed.

FY 87 BUDGET 9% LESS THAN CURRENT BUDGET

The budget that I submitted to you is a factual budget based upon the realization that we're going to have 9% approximately less to appropriate next year for operations than we had this year. That is the bad news. The good news will come when we try to preserve as much of the progress as we can that we have made through dramatic years in this body, in this joint effort that you've had as Legislators and as a Governor. And I might add that with the overwhelming support of the majority of the people of Oklahoma, all be it there are those who are not satisfied whatsoever and basically there will always be those who are not. We will not be satisfied with our end results if we demand perfection. We should work toward perfection, we should demand excellence

The budget that we have submitted to you takes a broad brush approach. There is going to be 9% less – that means that we have to reduce appropriations. There will not be in (anyone's opinion that I know in this chamber, either speaking to you or listening to me, on the floor or in the gallery or in the media through the press) and I know of no one who is advocating a tax increase. Therefore, we must live within the revenue. The revenue that has been at this time estimated officially – but knowing that that figure will not be exactly correct because the people of the State of Oklahoma changed the Constitution at our request and said that they will give us a later update in February as they continue to reevaluate the conditions economically of the State of Oklahoma. As we check the price of oil, as we see what the farmers are doing, as we see how the sales tax collections are coming in, more near the end of a session we can get a more update figure upon which to base our projections and that's as it should be.

AGENCIES SHOULD TRY AND SAVE 4.5% THIS YEAR/CARRYOVER

So we have taken the concept of a broad brush basically, that if there is to be a reduction it should be a reduction that is born to some degree by all and in as many cases as possible fairly and equitably, equally by all. But if we talk about a 9 percent reduction, we really should talk about that at my direction agencies have been request to try to save this year 4.5 percent of their expenditure that they could carry forward in the next session of the Legislature to address a 9 percent reduction; and if they are able carry those forward those agencies will not really have a 9 percent reduction next year they will have a two year budget basically at a 4.5 percent reduction! Almost unanimously, agency directors have told me they can leave within that 4.5 projected reduction over two years, with exceptions, but basically they can live within it – if they are given the necessary flexibility to administer their agencies and if they are not penalized for having saved money. The key to this concept is that no agency should be penalized for having saved money to try to carry it forward. There are some exceptions, and you may have others and you may not agree with the ones that I have pointed out but for openers: those that are very, very small (agencies), that are labor intensive, where a large reduction would virtually wipe out their ability to be of service to the people, should not in my opinion, bear the full 9 percent. It is peanuts in comparison to the overall budget but it is major in comparison to their budget for providing services to the State of Oklahoma. Some of them it appears that we did not give the 9 percent reduction when we did. Some of the smaller agencies we have said well

2 percent they should bear in it so you will see some of these that are smaller, I have said well 2 percent here and 2 percent there. Just so that they will share in the reduction. Others you will notice for example, Corrections really is the same reduction except that once we had taken the reduced amount that we are recommending for other agencies we had to plug back in the estimated growth in population within the Corrections system. The same within Mental Health and those departments. So in some cases when it appears that there has not been the reduction, there has, but we had to put back in them in our budget recommendation, programs that we thought should be there. For example, if you mandated a program and funded it only for six months last year and it is to be fully funded this year, it stands to reason that they have to the original 100 percent appropriation of that with reduction within that. So there are exceptions.

EDUCATION REDUCTIONS NECESSARY

In my budget I have at this point recognized that while we want to do more for education there are those who say don't cut education at all and as much as I would like to do that and as committed as you have been to education, and I congratulate you again, no state in this nation has done more in the past two or three years for education than has this state through particularly your leadership and our leadership through the Governor's Office and the people's support. But if you obviously realize from the beginning that when such a large percentage of the general fund revenue and other revenues go to education that if they take no cut whatsoever it would be devastating, you could wipe out many other facets of state government totally and not be able to still address the needs of education. And so, we have to say education must bear some cut.

My budget recommended to you today starts out with education at the same percent as almost every other agency – that is at the reduction the carry forward 9 percent reduction, but with the understanding that if there is new money that becomes available, through certification or if new money becomes available through some other source, that all of those monies would go to education – at the three levels with our goal to find that money. But if we treat education entirely different and cut nothing there we will throw a lot of agencies of government into a frenzy that would not be able to deliver for the people.

OMNIBUS BILL RECOMMENDED FOR EARLY PASSAGE

As we work together on the budget and with the latest information there are other issues that I think that we need to address. In regard to the budget, the Omnibus bill. I recommend to the Legislature that you immediately make the fiscal year appropriations for this year carry forward into the following year so that those agencies can have whatever they gave saved to address any shortfall that they might anticipate in the future. I think that should be passed early on so that we can see how much money the agencies really have.

ETHICS COMMISSION NEEDED

I call upon the Legislature in response to the Reform Commission that I appointed, I call upon you to put back upon the statutes of the State of Oklahoma an Ethics

Commission. An Ethics Commission that would have some power of subpoena upon a certain vote. An Ethics Commission that would look at each of us in the elected and decision making process in state government to make sure that the people can be assured that our conduct is above reproach. Most with whom I have ever come in contact in government are very ethical. But to reassure the public there is nothing wrong then, to step forward and say we have no objection whatsoever to certain being considered ethical and certain records being looked at I strongly suggest you address early an Ethics Commission.

REFORMS SHOULD BE CONTINUED

I suggest that you continue your efforts of reform. The people don't realize how many reform efforts either by Legislative action or administrative action by executive order or by rules and regulations that have actually been put in place. I recommend that you continue to look at all the reform measures that we sent to you last year that have not been enacted. And that you add any others to that that you think should be considered as we try to address the continued need of reform of state government. I point out many times that reform will not necessarily produce a lot of money, it may and it may not. Much reform costs money. Reform in education the past two years has cost a great deal of money, well worth it. But there are some reforms that can be passed and enacted that can bring about some savings I think we should always address those – such as consolidation of any agencies, elimination of duplication of efforts whatever what that might be and we will be giving you specific recommendations on that later.

HORSE RACING ISSUES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED EARLY

I hope very sincerely that the issue of racing can be addressed early in the session. The people of Oklahoma have voted for horse racing in this state. We did not unless we did it individually, they did. They expect to see as soon as possible within reason, an application granted for racing in this state and I urge that whatever action this Legislature is going to take in regard to racing that it will be taken early in the session so we can get behind us the divisive issue of where there is or is not to be certain racetracks in this state.

RIGHT TO WORK SPECIAL ELECTION

I think and I call upon the Legislature to put another issue behind us by submitting early to a special election a constitutional question to the people of the State of Oklahoma on right to work. The people of the state can decide that early in a special election I would hope by April so that we can go forward in our efforts knowing whatever that game plan is. I basically have never opposed the people's right to vote. I can't understand, in most cases, anybody who does not want to give the people the right to vote. This is a democracy, they can't all come to the Capitol. So in most cases, those cases that we can or that are so divisive, there is no reason not to submit it to a vote of the people. Just to say the Legislature is supposed to do that doesn't address it. The people, the founding fathers of this state, put into the Constitution the initiative petition and the referendum concept. From 1907 on they said the people in circumstances do have the right and should have the opportunity to vote, I urge you submit that and get that behind us so that we can work on

other issues.

COMPLETE THE PROJECTS

I also call upon us to try to complete any project that has been started in my administration that I consider a political promise; such as the Veterans Centers at Claremore, and the remodeling at Talihina, in addition to the various road projects I personally will be working on anything that can be constituted as a completion of the program will be did one of my goals.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OKLAHOMA

The buzz word for this session, the catch word seems to be, the slogan seems to be, the interest seems to be those great words (of which I totally concur) economic development and diversification. I want to point out from the very beginning that this Legislature and previous Legislatures and this Governor have been very committed to economic development; and contrary to the perception that some would like to give about you and about me that we're anti-business, this Legislature, this administration is extremely pro-business.

I am pleased that the Price Waterhouse study that you authorized in conjunction with the State Chamber of Commerce said in comparing the cost of doing business in the State of Oklahoma to all our competitors in the surrounding areas, that we are pro-business. We have adopted through the vote of the people when we did the 'Yes, All Three', efforts to improve the economic conditions. Our tax base, although we've had to raise it, still remains among the lowest in the country. But you and I know that we're not just getting on the bandwagon of economic development. We've been working on that for years. I personally have been involved in it, and from my 1979 first State of the State address, I said, 'The key to continued prosperity for Oklahoma's economy is continued growth. People repeatedly asked me in the campaign what is my number 1 priority. Was it roads? schools? public service? My response as a candidate was that my number 1 issue and priority was continued economic growth of the State of Oklahoma. People at work is the goal of the Governor.

In my 1982 State of the State, you will see in my budget message, you will read in the budget book, and you will hear me expound from this and other podiums across the state that our number 1 goal has to be economic development.

MORE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNOR IN 1986

And so we've been working on economic development and diversification. This year is an unusual year, 1986, in that a governor is not running for office. It's been a long time since a governor who was in office has not been involved personally in a campaign, either for re-election or perhaps in an effort to go to the United States Senate. I say here today as I've said forever, that my days in McAlester, I have no love, no desire to go to Washington. 'I ain't running for nothing.'

There is a year that I would like to give literally every waking moment to what I like to do best, and that is to sell and to promote the State of Oklahoma. I am ready to give that. If I am not involved in a lengthy legislative session, if I am not involved in divisive issues before the people; in a very unusual situation, I can, without seeking political gain go across this state, this country, and around this world trying to promote the State of Oklahoma. I will go anywhere, anytime, any place, to try and promote this state and create jobs. If that can be my main focus, and I ask you let's try to make it short, let's get the votes behind us, let's free up these people to work on other issues. Let's let the agency heads, for example in Economic Development, work on other things than reports. Let's let Tourism try to get guests in here. Let's spend our time as much as possible, being short and productive and then trying to function as a government.

NINE IDEAS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I submit to you nine ideas for economic development in this session (and that doesn't mean there aren't others) but nine that I want to give you that I think are very important.

NUMBER ONE: WORKER'S COMPENSATION REFORM

The number one issue of economic development is changing, modifying, improving the Workers' Comp law in the State of Oklahoma. That should be our goal with the understanding from the very first day it probably will be as difficult to arrive at a consensus as liquor-by-the-drink was. It will be difficult to write that piece of legislation. We need to start on it early, we need to get it out early, with this one agreement in the beginning we're going to do something about. And we're going to go from there.

NUMBER TWO: EXPAND BOND LIMITS NUMBER

Two, I ask us to ask for a change in the bond limits in the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority to raise it from twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000.00) to perhaps seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000.00) to allow us to go out and solicit even more aggressively business and new business and expanded business and existing business growth in the State of Oklahoma. If we can provide additional capital, there are firms who want to begin in Oklahoma, who want to expand in Oklahoma, who want to move to Oklahoma. If we want a tool to be competitive by increasing the bonding indebtedness of OIFA to some amount, I recommend \$75,000,000 would help.

NUMBER THREE: VENTURE CAPITAL

Three, within that, that we would allow a certain portion of those bond programs to be set aside for venture capital. We have talked about venture capital, we have looked for sources of venture capital, venture capital means that it is a risk, a higher risk than others, but we can prove as other states before us have been proving that you have to take risks to be successful. And through a successful venture capital program, we can help economic development.

NUMBER FOUR: MAKING SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
PERMANENT PART OF STATE
GOVERNMENT

Four, I hope that somewhere we make Science and Tech Council a permanent part of state government. At your direction, I appointed an advisory council of Science and Tech. They've been working for some two years. I think it's time that we underscored our commitment to that in a permanent way and make that a permanent part of state government.

NUMBER FIVE: RESTRUCTURING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Five, it's important that we send forward a strong message that we are going to be aggressive, and to do that I think takes the commitment up front to restructure the Economic Development Department of the State of Oklahoma; to make it attuned to 1986 and not to the tune necessarily of 1979 when I came in or 1982 when I was re-elected but today with you and I together in 1986, new ideas, restructuring. It will take additional funds, new programs, but we need to restructure it keeping in mind this – 70-75% of the chance of economic development of the State of Oklahoma lies in small and in existing businesses already here, already doing business that want expand to hire more Oklahomans.

NUMBER SIX: ADDITIONAL
PRESENCE OF STATE:
INTERNATIONALLY/WASHINGTON
D.C.

Six, that we create additional presence of the State of Oklahoma. I appreciate very much that you have authorized our first out-of-the-state in the Orient. The Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, the President Pro Tempore, and I and others, the committee that you have in the Legislature, have been working hard on international efforts, and the criticism that came through the travel and the expenses that we've been making on international “junkets” literally stopped dead in its tracks in the Capitol Blue Room when Hitachi announced that it was coming to Oklahoma.

And may I underscore to you that Hitachi said that they would never have come regardless of any incentives, regardless of any efforts, if they hadn't of liked the people with whom they had been dealing. And how the tough it was for us to sit quietly and take the flack that was coming and already knowing that Hitachi was coming, and yet because we were committed to privacy and secrecy of the announcement, we have to take at many times what I think was the abuse of people who were criticizing us, and yet we already knew that the proof of the pudding was on its way.

We can do even more, not just in Japan, but the Peoples Republic of China is a great opportunity for us; India. As Governor, I led the first trade mission ever of any

governor of any state to India, and we've already signed contracts. We need a in Europe. We need a presence in Washington as a state. Major contracts come out of Washington, D.C., either from the government or the major corporations that are there. Previous years I have called for an office in Washington. We haven't been able to do that. I hope with the success of the Japanese office and our international efforts you'll – see as other states have seen – thirty states have a presence in Washington. Thirty states have international offices.

NUMBER SEVEN: AGENCY TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Seventh, I hope by Legislative resolution you will (I can do it by Executive Order but I would like to show the cooperative strength) I would like for you to create, direct the Governor to create an agency task force on economic development where we call upon every single agency in state government, regardless of its mission, to be a part of the economic development of the State of Oklahoma. That their projects that work and contribute to economic development should be coordinated by a group effort to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. I'd ask for a resolution to do that. I could show the strength of not only the Governor but the Legislature.

NUMBER EIGHT: EDUCATION ECONOMIC TASK FORCE

Eight, I would hope that you would do the same thing to create an education economic task force. That the three levels of education – common, higher, and vo-tech – be directed by Executive Order and Legislative resolution to ask every institution of education in this state to see how they can address economic development in this state in a coordinated effort. Not all twenty-seven colleges and universities going off different, not every school district, not every vo-tech district, but in a coordinated effort.

NUMBER NINE: INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING IN EVERY AREA

Nine, increased funding for economic development in any area. That is not in the budget. And you'll say well, why isn't it in the budget. A nine percent reduction is a little more than is actually needed to meet the projected shortfall. So there is a cushion there for emergencies and for needs in other areas beyond that. For example, mid-term – adjustments, for example, the short term – long term disability program that is mandated by this Legislature to go into effect in March. From that cushion I would hope that we would make increase appropriations to any of the areas for economic development.

RECOVERY IS COMING: LET'S SPEED IT UP

Well, let me close. It's going to be a closing that I have thought about for a long time and it's going to be a little longer than most closings because I want to make about four points, but it's a close because it all comes together in this conclusion. Recovery is

coming, it's coming. There's good news. Hitachi, Hilti, Telex, Wortz Crackers to Poteau, from 250 to 500 jobs in LeFlore County, the coal business is trying to come alive and I could name others, but recovery is coming. The question that faces you and me and the question that faces the people of Oklahoma is what can we do to speed it up. There is light at the end of the tunnel, there is hope there. There is economic recovery. 1986 can be known historically as the year of economic recovery in Oklahoma if we can speed it up.

There are some things we don't have anything to do about: OPEC; the plight of the farmer which my heart bleeds and I regret that there is not more at the state level that we can do to help the farmers; we can't help the national debt and the interest paid on that, wish we could. But we can help when it comes to telling our story. But before we can sell others, we must sell ourselves.

WE MUST SELL OURSELVES

Ladies and gentlemen of Oklahoma, I made my first industrial mission on behalf of the State of Oklahoma as the Lieutenant Governor-elect in 1958 to New York City. And because we really wanted to impress people that we were a first-class state, we rented a room at the Waldorf Astoria. A room. There were 15 or so on the mission and we stayed down the street about \$40.00 a day away. We kept one person assigned in the hotel room to answer our calls. We all left our cards and 'if you need to reach me, you can get me at the Waldorf.' Then they would call down to our little sleepy hotel and say hey, call this number, you got a callback. We were trying to be classy because under the state travel, we couldn't stay up there. We were a little bit embarrassed to tell people where we really were staying – not personally, but representing the state. But I'll never forget the day I learned the speech. I learned 'Hi, I'm George Nigh. I'm from Oklahoma. I want to tell you about our work force. I want to tell you about our state. I want to tell you about our tax rate . . .'. I had it all. I had my right hand out and my hearty handshake and my claps on the back. I'll never forget, the first response wasn't 'have a cup of coffee' or 'glad to meet you'. The first response (and I repeat verbatim) 'What are you doing here trying to sell me on Oklahoma? Why aren't you in Oklahoma selling Oklahomans on Oklahoma?' And he recounted to me a story how he in his travels had come to Oklahoma prior to 1958 and how he was amazed at what little enthusiasm our people had for our state. I know there will be people who will criticize me for that, but that's a true story.

WE CAN'T SELL OTHERS UNTIL WE'VE SOLD OURSELVES

1984, twenty-six years later, with your authority we signed a contract with Morgan Grenfell, one of the world's largest financial institutions in London, England, to do a study of the image of the State of Oklahoma. Their first was verbal. It was 'why are you Oklahomans so critical of yourselves? Why are you so hard on yourself?' That was their first report. That outside of this state we did not have that image so bad that we thought we had. That the impression that we had of bad image was confined within our state boundaries. That's twenty-six years later. I tell you today, ladies and gentlemen, regardless of what we do in the Legislature and the things we passed, the programs we put together, the arguments that we get into, and I call upon the people of Oklahoma to realize that we can't sell others until we've sold ourselves.

STAND UP FOR OKLAHOMA

Our mission should be to stand up for Oklahoma, to stand tall for Oklahoma, to stand proud for Oklahoma, and I call upon the three and a half million citizens of this state to yes, have our differences of east and west, of rural and urban, and Democrats and Republicans, and whatever else of division you want to put in there, but not so much that it's so divisive that we can't remember that we're Oklahomans, that we're members of a team, that we're lining up together. And if the State wins, we all win.

And I call upon every community to this year, 1986, to make it the year of pride, that every community have an event around which they can dwell upon their local accomplishments, local citizens, and the pride and love that they have for their community. I call upon this State to make 1986 the re-birth of that Sooner spirit, of that Cowboy – fighting attitude, whatever you want to call it. That we stand tall for this state.

PRESS SHOULD LEAD THE WAY

And I call upon the press to lead the way. Yes, in reporting the news, as bad as it might be, but through their analysis and their editorials and their feature stories that they would highlight those things that can rally these people and this state together in a sense of pride and accomplishments and challenge and that the report in boxes said analysis or good news for today or something of which to be proud. Here, let's go for Oklahoma. Go for it. This is our state. The press can lead the way and should lead the way because they reach everybody when nobody else does. And I call upon them.

WE SHOULD THINK POSITIVE

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, in *The Power of Positive Thinking* – I've made a New Year's resolution. I ain't going to have no negative thoughts. And I've already broken it. I have made a New Year's resolution that I am going to think positive in the solutions and not the problems. I'm going to think positive in the future of this state. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale said, 'If you think negative thoughts, you draw negative reaction.' Send out positive thoughts and draw positive reaction.

There's not enough time for us to try to argue and belittle each other, to be critical beyond what the reason is, we should think positive, we should think positive about this state.

Oklahoma is more than OK, Oklahoma is GREAT, and it will only be great when we think it is great. It will only be great when we act like we think it's great.

I went to both bowl games. No sacrifice is too great for my people. But I went to both bowl games as the Governor because I thought it was appropriate that the Governor ought to be there. That drew more national attention, the Cowboys and the Sooners, more national attention than literally any other action of the state and I want to use the spirit of champions.

Barry Switzer said something very unusual. He said that fate drew them to that

point. Have you read the comparison between Switzer and Bud Wilkinson? It's eerie. Going into the Orange Bowl, playing for the national championship, Bud Wilkinson and Barry Switzer. Barry had one less win in his career than Bud Wilkinson did. They had the same number of ties, and Barry had one less national championship than Wilkinson did. And when OU won the national championship, it ended up that Bud Wilkinson and Barry Switzer had the exact record of the same number of wins, the same number of losses, the same number of ties, the same number of national championships, the same number of Heisman trophy winners, the same number of the Outland trophy winners. Had they not won that game, and Barry said that it was fate that brought us here. Well, I don't know what fate had to do with Tennessee, but, you know, . . . Isn't that eerie? But frankly, folks, fate doesn't get you too many places.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS INGREDIENT

It's kind of like some people say I'd rather have luck than hard work. Well, I always noticed that the harder I work, the luckier I get. Fate doesn't bring you too many places. We can be the people who maneuver and manipulate and create our fate. In the spirit of 'We're number 1', in the spirit of teamwork, in the spirit of champions, in the spirit of going out for this state in a team effort, I call upon not only you but the people of the State of Oklahoma. Regardless of what we do in the Legislature, the number one ingredient that this state needs is attitude and pride and positive thinking. Oklahomans, stand up for Oklahoma. Stand proud for Oklahoma. Stand tall for Oklahoma. 86 is our year. Thank you.”

Senator Luton moved that the Joint Session be dissolved, which motion was declared adopted.

Pursuant to the Luton motion, the clerk's desk being clear, the Senate adjourned at the hour of 1:35 p.m. to convene Wednesday, January 9, 1986, at 1:30 p.m.

About Digitizing the Governors' State of the State Addresses

Section 9, Article 6 of the Constitution of Oklahoma provides as follows:

“At every session of the Legislature, and immediately upon its organization, the Governor shall communicate by message, delivered to joint session of the two houses, upon the condition of the State; and shall recommend such matters to the Legislature as he shall judge expedient.”

From statehood in 1907 to present, the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors have been recorded in pamphlets, booklets, and Senate Journals. One could not foresee the toll that time would take on the earliest of these documents. When these items first arrived at the Oklahoma State Archives, the leather bindings had dried considerably, cracking the spines significantly. Due to the acidity in the paper, many pages have darkened with age. Some of the more brittle pamphlets crumble at the slightest touch.

Thus when we decided to digitize these materials, we faced two challenges: the safety of the original documents and ease of viewing/reading for patrons. Our primary objective was that the unique and historic qualities of the documents should be reflected in the website. However, older fonts would not digitize clearly when scanned and even using a flatbed scanner could cause the bindings to worsen. An image of each page would increase download time considerably and any hand-written remarks or crooked pages could be lost. We decided to retype each document with every period, comma, and misspelled word to maintain the integrity of the document while placing some unique images of the documents online. Patrons can download the addresses quicker and view them clearer as well as save, print, and zoom with the Adobe Acrobat Reader. We have learned much from our efforts and we hope that our patrons are better served in their research on the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors.