

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundred and Third Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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Exaugural Message
of
Governor John H. Reed
to the
One Hundred and Third Legislature
January 4, 1967

**EXAUGURAL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY GOVERNOR JOHN H. REED
TO MEMBERS OF THE 103rd LEGISLATURE**

January 4, 1967

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the 103rd Legislature and Citizens of Maine.

You have been charged by Maine people with the responsibility of conducting the State's business during the coming biennium. Similar to your predecessors, you will be confronted with many problems during your service as members of the Legislature. It is not in my province to suggest guidelines to you. Briefly, however, I will outline what in my opinion has been done in recent years and the ways in which these accomplishments have come about.

During my terms of office as Governor I am proud that Maine has made rapid and tangible progress toward the full development of both human and natural resources. Unprecedented numbers of new business ventures have been established in each of the past several years bringing new jobs and new prosperity to our state.

The four-season vacationland concept has become a reality. Annually record numbers of tourists, visitors and vacation and recreation seekers move to and from our State taking advantage of modern facilities from the mountain ski slopes to the sandy beaches. This vital resource can and must grow.

State backed credit for new recreational and industrial ventures can now be obtained through one of a number of agencies. The Maine Industrial Building Authority, the Maine Recreation Authority and the Maine Industrial and Recreational Financial Approval Board stand ready to work toward uplifting the economic plateau of our State.

You will be faced with increasingly complex problems in the field of education. Under this administration education has thrived. It must continue to do so in order for Maine to reach full economic strength. As the result of a recommendation which I made to the 102nd Legislature the Advisory Commission on the Higher Education Study was formed and recently their report was submitted.

As you review the report you will find their conclusions stimulating and challenging.

A rapidly expanding and increasingly complex federal-state relationship is placing an ever growing burden on officials of state government. Programs of health and welfare, water improvement, highway construction and conservation, to mention but a few, must now respond to increased federal control. Failure to comply means loss of funds. You must give your strict attention to programs which include federal participation to meet these pressing needs.

I take a great measure of pride in the sound fiscal responsibility that has prevailed in state government during my administration. Living within one's means may not always be the most popular thing to do, but it is certainly the most prudent and in the long run the most efficient.

The reins of state government will change hands here tomorrow, and I am proud and pleased that this transition will take place with the state's business in order. Maine, during my administration, has maintained sound fiscal responsibility. I strongly believe that this is the most efficient and effective method of conducting the state's business.

Important decisions concerning financial matters will confront each of you during your terms as legislators. These decisions will be difficult ones to make. I urge you to maintain a posture of sound fiscal policy for the best interests of the taxpayers and citizens of our State.

During my years of service to the citizens of Maine I have endeavored to render honest, continuous and effective service toward the betterment of all Maine people. It has been my goal to keep the best from the past and seek out only the finest of the new. I believe Maine's integrity and tradition have been preserved and that together we have successfully reached many new heights. The rewards I have received have come from the people themselves, their warmth, consideration and their genuine concern for the future of Maine.

My wife Cora, my daughters Cheryl and Ruth and I have enjoyed sharing our years as Maine's First Family with the many thousands of our fellow citizens who have visited with us in the Blaine House. We shall forever cherish fond memories of life in the executive mansion and leave with the wish that our successors may be as happy as we have been.

Now, I offer each of you my very sincerest personal best wishes in your duties with the 103rd Maine Legislature. I am confident that you will meet the challenges with determination and success. Goodbye and good luck.