

THE SECOND DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), January 21, 1969

Assembly called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Father Thomas J. Connolly.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Lowman moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with, and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE

By Mr. Dini:

Assembly Bill No. 30—An Act relating to the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners; providing for the appointment of board members; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Mr. Dini moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Fish and Game.

Motion carried.

By Mr. Frank Young:

Assembly Bill No. 31—An Act to amend chapter 459 of NRS, relating to state radiation control, by adding new sections adopting the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Mr. Frank Young moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

Mr. Lowman moved that the Assembly recess until 1:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 9:34 a.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 1:34 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 20, 23, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

ROY L. TORVINEN, *Chairman*

and Justice Gordon Thompson of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Justices of the Supreme Court to chairs in the Assembly.

The President of the Senate welcomed the Governor and invited him to deliver his message.

The Governor delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION, 1969

CARSON CITY, January 21, 1969

Mr. President Fike, Mr. Speaker McKissick, Mr. President pro-Tem Lamb, distinguished Members of the Legislature, My Fellow Nevadans:

As this 55th session of the legislature convenes, I am pleased to greet once again many old friends and extend my welcome to the new faces in the legislative chambers of our great state.

At the outset, permit me to open my message to you with this very comforting yet very challenging observation: As we begin this session, our state is poised on the threshold of a new era of progress and unparalleled opportunity.

The goal that must be uppermost in the minds of all of us is to see that we provide in the era ahead the best possible way of life for all Nevadans.

With that in mind, I address you tonight less with the intent of dwelling on the accomplishments of the past than to chart with you the course and challenge of the future.

Because the well-being of the people of this state is tied to our economic climate, it is clear that one of the primary responsibilities of the Executive Branch of government is to do all within its means to assure a healthy, vibrant economy.

All signs are "go" for Nevada's economy, and unless there should be unanticipated reverses in the national economic picture, this state is about to enter an era of golden economic opportunity.

The statistics speak for themselves. I won't go into them here. You're already aware of them. Nevada's economy, last year particularly, was fantastically successful. Tourism flourished as never before. Our industrial base was extended substantially.

This was due principally not to government as such, but to the efforts and ingenuity of private enterprise. Private enterprise composed of thousands and thousands of hard working men and women—both in and out of organized labor—and many imaginative and forward looking businessmen and women. Nevadans who have worked hard, asked for little, and contributed much.

All combining to make Nevada's economy one of the most vibrant in the entire country.

What is the role of state government?

First, state government has a direct responsibility in promoting tourism and attracting desirable industry to our state. For this reason, we will ask that you substantially increase the budget of a vastly improved economic development department.

Additionally, because economic development and industrial expansion are so closely linked to the attitudes and stances of state government, and its financial condition, let me outline for you what we are trying to achieve as we enter the new era. . . .

First of all, we want fiscal integrity on the state level. Prospective industry looks at this carefully. The economy reacts to it with great sensitivity.

To me, fiscal integrity means a state government that does not unduly tax its people.

It means a state government ready and willing to spend money on substantive projects for the future—rejecting closed-circuit thinking—but also capable of exercising the fiscal caution to maintain sufficient reserves for unexpected crisis.

It means a state government insisting upon a combination of prudence and imagination to obtain maximum services for every tax dollar spent. Combining its own

resources with help and assistance from the private citizens of this state, who have been so helpful the past two years.

It means a state government with a basic competence that is attuned to the future to produce practical solutions to practical and very often complex problems. With this criteria of our state government in mind, permit me now to outline for you the directions we recommend for the future.

EDUCATION

As we look to the future it is most appropriate that we first look to education. That, indeed, is what the future is all about.

This year, as in past years, meeting the needs of education will be one of your primary tasks.

We do not resent responsible pleas for more money from educators. In fact, we feel this reflects a vitality of education in our state when demands for greater funds are made each session of the legislature by spokesmen for education.

They certainly have every right to plead that case as they see fit.

Because education touches on the lives of everyone in the state and because the educators plead an articulate case for continuation of quality education with which we are in basic sympathy, it becomes a most trying challenge to decide between what the educators request and what we are able to afford.

Statistics from the Nevada Department of Education indicate the average teacher in Nevada today earns some \$8,330 a year as compared to \$7,421 some two years ago.

Under our recommendation, additional funds would allow for further increases of more than \$500 per teacher, according to Department of Education figures.

In the final analysis, we must ask ourselves whether we are now doing all that we can within our means. I have wrestled with the question for some time.

I sincerely feel that our recommendation reflects what we can do within our means and yet still meet other important obligations.

Somewhere, with all such requests, someone has to draw the line, the buck stops at the Governor's desk.

It's a big family with which the Governor must be concerned. The youngster in the children's home, the patient in the mental hospital, the mentally retarded youngster, the blind person. They all need attention.

It is my serious responsibility to achieve a fair division of our available funds.

I have attempted to do this and enable our school boards to keep teacher salaries competitive. Some educators disagree. You must make the final determination.

However, we must bear one fact in mind. It's a two way street. We on the state level have our responsibility to education. By the same token, education has its responsibility to the taxpayers of this state to operate on a businesslike, efficient, and economical basis. I'm certain that it will.

GENERAL TAXATION

The dramatic improvement in our fiscal picture has enabled us to present to you not only a balanced budget but also one which calls for no new general tax increases.

During the past several months I've travelled throughout our state and talked with thousands of our citizens. One message came through—loud and clear. Nevadans, with few exceptions, have absolutely no appetite for additional general taxes.

I want you and all Nevadans to know that I concur wholeheartedly in this feeling.

There are those who point out that the lot of the Nevada taxpayer is fortunate, perhaps the most fortunate in any of the 50 states.

I think that's true, and I think we all should be proud of this distinction. Let's keep it that way!

My strong feeling in this whole area is that the most feasible way to increase governmental revenue is not always to think in terms of more taxes, but to create and maintain a business climate, free of burdensome taxes, which will generate required funds from existing tax sources.

Certainly, the past year has demonstrated forcefully the truth of this belief, and I hope we can all strive to keep Nevada "One Sound State" with the most favorable tax climate in the country.

Fund Surplus

I am, of course, pleased to report to you that the State treasury is in excellent fiscal condition. As of July 1, 1968, the general fund balance was approximately \$5 million. Revenues this year have increased dramatically, and governmental economies have also occurred. As a result, our estimates of the unappropriated surplus as of July 1, 1969, will approach the sum of \$15 million. It appears that will be a record surplus in Nevada's history, and Nevadans should be proud of it.

As you well know, this healthy fiscal condition was not easily achieved. It resulted from a combination of factors, including new fiscal policies in state government; forward-looking decisions made by the legislature in your last session; and amazing economic expansion.

Government savings resulted from not filling vacancies unless absolutely necessary.

For this we owe a debt of gratitude to our state employees, who have accepted the new policies with complete cooperation. They have certainly earned the proposed salary raises we have recommended. Also, by refusing to allow ourselves to be carried away with the multitude of matching programs of the federal government which would be of doubtful benefit and could bankrupt our state, we have saved dollars—and our freedom.

Since fiscal health is not easily achieved, neither should we allow it to be easily dissipated. And, I'll tell you why.

As I indicated at the outset, the fiscal condition of state government is one of the factors that prospective new industry looks at when it is deciding where to move. It tells a lot about their own economic and tax future in the state.

But it is not alone for this reason that we seek to preserve a justifiable balance, nor is it merely to help assure us of thoughtful, long-range fiscal planning—as basic as these reasons are to sound government and the future of our state. Rather, it is to safeguard the people of Nevada against any type of “crisis taxation” in the event there is a reversal in the economy or some other unforeseen development.

We therefore view that surplus as a very necessary insurance policy.

We must and will oppose attempts to fritter it away for an additional reason, and I tell you this in all candor.

The fact is that because of our projected growth; the increasing demands made upon state government as a result of a more complex, urbanized society; and the unforeseen problems which are certain to confront us in the near future, this may well be the last opportunity Nevada has to achieve a surplus reserve of this proportion.

It is for these same reasons that we believe that whatever portion of these surpluses we determine can be used without endangering our safe “insurance level of reserves,” be allocated to non-recurring capital improvements.

At the same time, of course, we would not ask that an unreasonably high balance be maintained. Thus, we are recommending the most ambitious capital construction program in the history of Nevada—some \$20 million.

This will leave a good reserve of some \$6 million which we feel is necessary for the reasons stated.

Local Government Financing

As I am sure you are aware, some local sub-divisions in Nevada have expressed concern over their financial plight.

We have evaluated the situation and concluded that in fact there are some local sub-divisions which are in need of additional revenue. The precise method of relief we would leave to you.

If however, you resort to some form of local option taxation, we strongly recommend that the same be limited to a Special tax and that general taxes be left at the state level.

RESOLUTIONS

I would like for a moment to mention certain areas which we are hopeful you will cover by resolution.

First, as you well know, I support lowering of the voting age to 18 in Nevada. The arguments, pro and con are many, and I am sure you have heard them.

If the Legislature approves such a resolution at two regular sessions, the people of the State of Nevada will then have an opportunity to vote on this matter.

Frankly, I feel that it is incumbent upon you to allow the voters to vote on this issue even if you have some personal reservations about it.

Secondly, I would hope that you again pass a resolution which, if approved by the voters of Nevada, will limit a Governor to two consecutive four-year terms.

Personally, I am even more convinced today than two years ago that such a restriction is healthy and necessary.

Also, during the course of this session we intend to present special messages to you relative to consumer protection, election laws and some very badly needed consolidation of the numerous boards and commissions.

Each of the complex areas I have just mentioned warrant study.

UNIVERSITY BUDGET

Turning to needs of higher education, we also find a request for additional monies.

Despite the fact that during the current biennium the largest dollar increase in history—some 56 percent over the previous biennium—was allowed the university, we are again recommending a substantial increase in state aid. Our enrollment on both campuses is rapidly increasing and, as a result, we must keep pace. We must not endanger the quality of instructions in our excellent university system.

Under our proposal to you, the University of Nevada will receive an additional \$6.1 million for the coming biennium—an increase of some 25 percent.

This represents the most dramatic increase in aid to the university in history.

Under the proposed increase, we have included funds to meet faculty salary increases as recommended by the regents.

We are also recommending the largest capital construction program ever for the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. We recommend appropriation of \$8.3 million for capital improvement at the Las Vegas campus. In addition, we recommend appropriation of \$6.7 million for capital construction at the Reno campus.

We also call upon the University to continue to investigate ways to better utilize existing staff, services and facilities to help keep costs down where possible.

We also caution against instituting new programs which could weaken the undergraduate programs.

Finally, I would like to observe that the University of Nevada, at both campuses, is receiving an unquestionably fair share from the money coffers of this state. We in Nevada need apologize to no one for our university system, the advances it has made and the prospects for continued progress, nor need we apologize for its financial support. The state has responded generously to the University's needs.

Thanks to many dedicated persons, our university continues to gain stature in higher education throughout the country.

BUSINESS PRACTICES IN GOVERNMENT

As we have mentioned, this Administration is dedicated to a business-like approach to government.

To further this concept, we are making several recommendations to you which will help in the overall effort.

Staff Investment Counselor

First, we are asking that you approve our proposal to obtain a state investment counselor.

The concept is simple. For the past several years, the State of Nevada has been losing between \$500,000 and a million dollars a year because money has been sitting idle rather than drawing interest. Although substantial funds are always invested, there are many times when vast sums are not.

At times in the past, the State of Nevada has had up to \$20 million in a checking account when this money could have been working for us and making money for the state.

The investment counselor would invest idle state funds on a day-to-day basis. Depending on the financial market, the money earned by the state in a year will range upward to a million dollars.

We must remember that a time lag often occurs, for example, between the receipt of cash and its expenditure. These funds may be utilized by investing between the time they are acquired and the time it is necessary to spend them. The interest earned would go into the general fund.

The validity of this concept has been confirmed by a competent certified public accountant in the private sector. His detailed report is available to you.

We can no longer tolerate the present condition. Certainly, business, or individuals for that matter, would not let their money sit idly when they could invest it and gain a handsome return. State government should approach the matter no differently.

Now, to my next recommendation.

Appropriation to Interim Finance Committee

No doubt exists that it has been necessary to have special legislative sessions almost every other year for the past decade. Consideration has been given to off-year sessions since two years is a long time to plan ahead.

For the most part, these off-year sessions deal only with money matters. Therefore, only members of the money committees are fully involved in the business before the session. The remaining legislators have little to do. In addition, the cost of such sessions are extremely high.

We have given serious thought to establishing a method of meeting financial needs between regular biennial sessions and avoiding off-year sessions.

We are therefor asking you to appropriate \$1 million to be available to an interim finance committee which can consider money requests in off-years.

To be composed of members of the legislative money committees, this interim committee would meet when necessary to hear requests for additional funds. The committee would have authority to allocate monies up to the million dollar mark.

This concept is not offered at this time as a means to defeat proposals before you regarding annual budget sessions. If you approve the interim concept, however, and it works well, the citizens of Nevada may take this into consideration when deciding on the proposed off-year budget sessions.

Through the diligence of our State Controller, Wilson McGowan, it has become evident that in recent years Nevada has been woefully inadequate in providing means for a proper accounting system for the multi-million dollar business we call state government.

Improvements have been made the past two years which have at least brought our antiquated techniques "into this century," but there is still much to be desired.

Therefore, we are asking you for funds to upgrade and modernize our accounting procedures. We can no longer afford a "horse and buggy" accounting system in the space age.

This will initially cost money. However, in the long haul, it will be far more efficient and save dollars.

And, perhaps just as importantly, we will all but eliminate the chances for error which can be so costly in such a large business as state government.

State Building Authority

Lastly, legislation will be presented to you authorizing a state building authority designed primarily to meet construction needs at the campuses. The legislation has been prepared by the Legislative Counsel to carefully avoid circumventing the vote of the people on proposition 2, and, warrants your serious consideration.

TAXI CAB AUTHORITY

In the course of our growth and development there arise conditions of a very critical nature that affect particular sections of our state, but concerning which the rest of the state is, for all practical purposes, oblivious.

Such a condition exists in Clark County with respect to the taxi cab business there—the number of cabs allowed to operate, labor contracts, jurisdictional conflicts, and other issues.

Because of the sensitivity of the matter, its effect on the resort hotel industry and of thousands of tourists, as well as adverse publicity that it has caused Nevada nationally, we believe it is an area of vital concern to state government.

It has become clear to us, in keeping with various court decisions, that a strong central authority is needed to regulate the taxi cab industry.

The explosive situation we've had there the past few years is a gun poised at Clark County's economic temple. We can no longer afford to play Russian roulette with this problem.

We believe the legislature should create such an authority on a state level, placing it under the wing of the Public Service Commission, but giving it independent status.

Our belief that authority and responsibility in this matter should rest with the state is based on the uniqueness of the Southern Nevada economy, an area with

more than half the state's population. A very key segment of the state's economy can be seriously damaged by difficulties within the taxi cab industry in Clark County.

However, should it be the view of the legislature that such control would more properly be vested at the local level, the state will in turn respect that judgment, and continue to work through existing channels whenever called upon. If you feel, though, that the job can't be done there, let's proceed on the state level. One way or the other—something must be done—now!

RACE RELATIONS

Let me say that in the field of equal rights, Nevada's record has been one of basic harmony and responsibility when compared to the inflammatory situations in other states. This has been due principally to responsible minority leadership—one of whom is a distinguished colleague of yours—Woodrow Wilson.

Nevertheless, conditions here have not been without trial or tribulation for Nevada.

Based on the experiences of this critical period, and looking to the future, it is clear that our equal rights commission must have a substantially increased budget and an enlarged staff.

The minority segment of our population is growing rapidly and the state must face up to its avowed responsibility of assuring its minority citizens their rights.

With this in mind, to avoid the question of open housing legislation on the state level would be less than honest.

It is true that recently rendered decisions of the United States Supreme Court, as well as federally-enacted open housing legislation, assure the rights of all Nevadans in housing and makes almost any legislative action we may take on a state level appear legally unnecessary, but that is really not the case.

Two very strong reasons militate for your enactment of open housing legislation.

First, there is the very practical consideration that state open housing legislation would take precedence over the federal laws. This would enable Nevadans to deal with our own problems rather than facing the heavy hand of federal involvement.

But secondly, and I believe perhaps even more importantly, the time has come for Nevada to serve notice upon one and all that the rights and human dignity of the minorities of this state are believed, protected and supported by heart and by conscience and by law in Nevada.

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

It undoubtedly comes as no surprise to you that this Administration will continue to support outdoor recreation development. A rather mediocre former sheepherder could do no less.

The value of recreation to physical and mental well-being must be recognized and must be expressed in programs designed to eventually reach our goal of insuring availability and accessibility of adequate recreation for all citizens.

The heritage of scenic lands, natural wonders, coastal areas, inland waters, virgin forests, and unspoiled mountains must be preserved and enriched for future generations.

We are recommending a budget for capital improvement of parks which is over the million dollar mark or nearly three times the amount allocated last biennium.

In addition, we are recommending an increased budget for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

I am pleased to report to you that significant developments have occurred throughout the state in the area of outdoor recreation since the last regular session.

Also, since the last session, a joint Commission, composed of representatives of Nevada and California, has consummated some thirteen years of negotiations on a compact to allocate the water of Lake Tahoe and the Carson, Truckee and Walker Rivers between the two states.

We urge you to approve the compact legislation which will be presented for your consideration.

We also urge you to give favorable consideration to our recommendation that a Statewide Water Plan be developed. The future of Nevada indeed rests to a large extent with water. We must complete this study as quickly as possible to assure that we will get a fair share of water available in the future.

We will ask that you consider creation of interim agency to serve as the Lake

Tahoe Regional Agency pending ratification of the legislation passed by Nevada and California allowing such a Regional Agency.

CRIME

Nevada has always taken pride in its independence and the independence of its people.

But we have always insisted that our freedom be equalled by self-responsibility. We cannot have one without the other.

This brings me to the subject of crime.

Crime, in any proportion, is a serious problem.

Violence and theft, directly or indirectly, touches each one of us.

Government, at all levels, must continue to support crime prevention programs and rehabilitation programs.

Government must also deal strongly with the offender.

However, as is often the case, government by itself cannot even begin to do the job.

Crime cannot be controlled without the interest and participation of schools, business, social agencies, private groups and private individuals.

As a society, we must deal fairly but strongly with the criminal.

We must make it clear that violence, death, theft, and the hundreds of other crimes which take place daily in this nation *will not be condoned by wishy-washy permissiveness but that they will be dealt with strongly.*

Specifically, this evening I would urge that you approve our recommendation creating a State Narcotics Bureau.

Arrests for narcotic violations rose some 82 percent nationally in the past few years. It is a fact that use of dangerous drugs, particularly among our young people, is increasing in Nevada.

We are not pressing the panic button by any means because we frankly find the vast majority of our young people have the wisdom not to tamper with these dangerous drugs which could indeed blow their lives into oblivion.

Nevertheless, a problem exists and it is growing. It is, thankfully, still manageable, but may not be much longer. Believing strongly in preventive medicine, we believe the time has come for the state to establish a strong State Narcotics Bureau.

It would serve to compile data on the use of dangerous drugs so that the problem can be attacked with more efficiency and more directly.

Of equal importance, the bureau would be available to assist local agencies in investigations whenever asked.

And finally, and perhaps most importantly, the bureau would serve as an information and educational agency to inform Nevadans, young and old, of the risks they are taking by use of dangerous drugs.

I would also like to commend our state's law enforcement agencies for doing such a fine job. I assure them of our continued support.

GAMING

For today, tomorrow and long years to come the substance of much of what we do in Nevada—our daily lives, our economy, our capability of building for the future, our stature nationally—will revolve around and largely be dependent upon the course we take with our legalized gambling industry.

The evolution of legalized gambling to a modern, sophisticated business, one operated at the insistence of Nevada's citizens at the highest ethical level and accepted as such by countless millions of Americans, has been a long time in coming.

I am pleased to report to you tonight that we enter the new era with legalized gambling healthier, more responsible, and more widely accepted nationally than at any time in our history.

The great transition which you, the legislature, initiated in 1967 through the passage of corporate licensing legislation has "opened the door" for what we believe will be unparalleled change and progress in the future.

It has been expected that a great deal of attention will be focused upon the gaming industry in this legislative session. There should be.

As you know, the Gaming Commission, during the past year, passed a strict regulation setting forth the criteria by which the thorny question of monopoly could be answered. As an additional safeguard, we have asked Speaker McKissick,

"The Father of the Gaming Act", to prepare legislation to strengthen the regulation with legislative consideration and approval.

Likewise, there are amendments needed in the framework of our corporate licensing system which we have discovered in working with the act since the last session.

We will ask, too, for additional funding to engage experts in corporate matters to advise us as the expected complex corporate applications come before us. We should settle for nothing but the best advice in passing upon these multi-million dollar transactions.

But I urge that in all of your deliberations you not limit your thinking about legalized gambling to the here and now. Last year we witnessed the beginning of a revolution in legalized gambling in Nevada. It will continue in the years ahead. There are going to be dramatic changes within the industry, and I foresee an industry years from now that we would not recognize today.

I believe very sincerely that the day will come when our casinos will be owned by thousands of corporate stockholders across the nation, including many Nevadans.

That day—however far off it may be—will represent the ultimate evolution of legalized gambling in Nevada. But that day can only come about if we move with extreme care and responsibility today.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES NEGOTIATIONS

Undoubtedly during this session, you will be presented with numerous bills relative to the creation of legislation authorizing public employees to negotiate.

We have no objection to such legislation and, indeed, feel that in some areas it may be most appropriate.

The bills presented to you will vary. All public employees may not desire such legislation.

I might caution, however, that while supporting the concept of negotiation, I will veto any such legislation if it carries with it the right for such public employees to strike.

Nowhere in this country have public employees been given the right to strike. We must not allow it here.

It is recognized that in the ultimate such a strike is not a strike against government or one of its agencies but against the people.

We need not go into great detail to illustrate the dangers of such strikes. We can imagine a city without policemen. A raging fire but no firemen could mean the overnight destruction of a city, and so on down the line.

The public employee serves all the people, regardless of his line of work. He is sworn as a public employee to support his government and any effort on his part to violate that trust by attempting to disrupt the operations of government or paralyze it, cannot be condoned.

We realize this is a heavy responsibility on public employees. We are attempting continually to upgrade their salaries as much as is feasible.

I would like to compliment Nevada's public employees for their performance in the past and I am sure they will continue to do a fine job.

My remarks relative to strikes are not prompted because we lack faith in our public employees. However, I feel it necessary to make our position clear in the interest of all Nevadans.

Also, in this same general area, legislation will be proposed establishing for the first time in Nevada collective bargaining procedures, on a state level, for disputes of an intra-state nature between labor and management. This legislation is needed and has our general approval.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As you well know, this Administration has been somewhat interested in a Community College System in Nevada. How do you like that for the understatement of the year?

During the past two years, and I would like to make this clear, our support of a community college concept has not lessened one iota. On the contrary, we now feel even more strongly than ever that Nevada needs to support this concept in education.

The A. D. Little Report we recently received confirmed what many of us had

long suspected. A Community College System is desperately needed in Nevada. We are the only state—the *only State*—not providing this type of educational opportunity for as many as 60 percent of our high school graduates.

Too many are unable to meet admission requirements at the University, or if they can, too many simply aren't ready for University work. And yet, off they go—either to the Las Vegas or Reno campuses.

And by the end of the first year 40 percent either drop-out or flunk out.

And at what price?

First, thousands and thousands of badly needed tax dollars to train them.

And worse than that, unnecessary emotional and social scars—deep and permanent—for these youngsters to bear the rest of their lives.

These young Nevadans would be far better served by going to a two year community college to try out their “educational wings,” then, if they can successfully complete “university courses,” they simply move on to the University to complete their college education.

If they can't, they then have an option. Rather than simply dropping out, they can go into the vocational-technical division of the community college.

Clearly these youngsters need our help.

Additionally, many of our youth simply do not want to go to the University at all—and shouldn't. Their talents lie in practical pursuits. Rather than become teachers, doctors, or lawyers, they prefer to become good electronic technicians, programmers, auto mechanics, cosmetologists, draftsmen and an endless list of other vocations that keep our world moving. These Thousands of youngsters, in my opinion, deserve more from Nevada than we've given them. They should be given every opportunity to attend a Community College, to equip themselves to a desired level, and at the end of two years, go into life with a “College Degree”—a Degree just as important in today's society as a degree from any University.

How do we go about getting started? Clearly, we can't go in the direction recommended by the Little Report, as desirable as that might be. I wish we could. Realistically, though, we can't. The recommended 100 million dollar, ten year program for operating funds and facilities is simply out of our reach. We should move slowly and make certain we don't jeopardize existing programs, both at the University and at the public schools.

But start we must, and fortunately, that start has already been made here in Nevada.

In 1967 a small group of residents in Elko decided they would take the matter “in their own hands.” Through private donations, they started the first Community College in Nevada—a splendid example of what “local self-help” can do.

To be sure, the road for them has been a rocky one. Fortunately, despite setback after setback, this school is still “very much alive” and functioning.

To me, this is the logical place to start our State Community College System. Accordingly, I'm recommending that you appropriate \$1000 for each fulltime student working toward a degree at Elko, to a maximum of 250 students per year. Cost of part-time students will be self-sustaining by student fees.

This will enable us to launch a meaningful program on a modest “first step” basis.

Bear in mind that this recommendation contemplates that the local area will provide the facilities, at their expense, to carry out the program. As we visualize the program, the State will provide the operating funds and the local entity will provide the facilities. The result will be a true joint venture aimed at a most desirable educational result.

I solicit your help and cooperation in this proposal. I know of none more important this session.

To do less than this would, in my opinion, break faith with too many of our young people.

Description of Program

This, then, represents our course for the future. We would describe it as being progressively conservative—contradiction in terms? I think not. Conservative in the sense that we must ever be vigilant to protect and preserve that of Nevada which makes her what we all love and cherish.

Progressive in the sense that the program is responsive to the needs of a fast growing, dynamic state.

TRIBUTE TO HISTORY

In closing we can't overlook that this evening we are participating in an unescapable drama of historic significance. This will be the last time a governor or legislature will ever participate in a session like this in this fine, historic capitol.

On this occasion, I would like to offer a litany to the many legislators and governors who over the years have served their people in these very halls. Men and women who have helped forge Nevada as we know and love it today.

The list of names is too long to recite. But, that is not necessary. Each one of us here this evening was inspired by one or more of these people to come here and to serve our state the best we know how. Thus these men and women will never be forgotten. They leave an indelible legacy upon the beautiful face of Nevada.

If you will excuse a personal reference, this is a particularly moving experience for me. My memories of this chamber, of this fine old capitol building, go back to when I was "knee high" to a small grasshopper, a youngster growing up here in our capital city, trying to slip into the gallery without being detected, of hearing the spirited debates, of listening in complete awe to Governors Fred Balzar, Dick Kirman, Ted Carville deliver their messages.

Never, never in my wildest moments of imagination, did I ever dream that one day I would follow them to this rostrum and participate as Governor in this closing page of a wonderful chapter of Nevada History.

Tonight we who have followed these distinguished men and women can only hope that this last session will be a memorable one—one in which they would have been proud. We're so fortunate being Nevadans. Never for a moment should any of us forget it.

With God's help, blessed with the ability and strength He will give us, we will be equal to the task ahead.

PAUL LAXALT

Senator Dodge moved that the Senate and the Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to the Governor for his competent, able, and constructive message.

Seconded by Assemblyman Lowman.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Governor to the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Justices of the Supreme Court to the bar of the Assembly.

Senator Titlow moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Assemblyman Swackhamer.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 8:25 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 8:27 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Mr. Glaser, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mrs. Norman Glaser.

On request of Mr. Espinoza, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mr. Morry Zennoff.

On request of Mr. Homer, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mr. C. A. Carlson, Jr.