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# GOVERNOR TOM MCCALL ADMINISTRATION

January 9, 1967 to January 13, 1975

## FIRST TERM RECORDS

For more records see the [Governor's Records Guides](#).

### Biographical Note

Thomas Lawson McCall, Governor of Oregon from 1967-1975, was Oregon's 30<sup>th</sup> governor. McCall was born in Egypt, Massachusetts on March 22, 1913. He was the son of Henry McCall and Dorothy Lawson McCall.



Accomplishments of his administration include cleaning up the Willamette River; tougher land-use laws; a bill which ended the threat of private development on Oregon's beaches; the nation's first mandatory bottle-deposit law; and creative energy conservation measures, such as a ban on outdoor business lighting during the energy crisis of the 1970's.

McCall's parents moved to Portland from Massachusetts in 1909. Shortly after they moved to a ranch near Prineville on the Crooked River. McCall spent significant time during his childhood both on the ranch and in Massachusetts. McCall attended the University of Oregon, where he graduated with a degree in journalism in 1936. His first job was at the News-Review in Moscow, Idaho, from 1937-1942. In 1939 he married Audrey Owen. They moved back to Oregon and he began working for The Oregonian newspaper, and then as a news announcer at KGW radio. In 1944 their son, Thomas W. L. McCall, Jr. (known as "Tad") was born. McCall enlisted in the Navy that same year, and served as a war correspondent in the Pacific.

In January 1946 he returned to Oregon and began a nightly radio talk show on KEX in Portland. He joined the Young Republicans, and in 1949 he was offered a job as Governor Douglas McKay's assistant. That same year his second son, Samuel W. McCall III was born.

In 1964 McCall ran for Secretary of State as a stepping-stone to the governorship. He defeated Alfred Corbett, a victory which ran counter to the trend of Republican defeats in the 1964 elections.

In 1966 he decided to run for governor and found he was opposed by his own party. Nevertheless, he ran on the issue of "livability" and defeated Robert Straub in the general election in November 1966. His first major political victory came with legislation known as the "Beach Bill," which granted the state government the power to zone Oregon's beaches, thus protecting them from private development.

McCall was known for being more publicly accessible than his predecessors as governor. He held open houses and enjoyed making public appearances. His independence resulted in poor relations with his own party. However, his accessibility endeared him to the media, which supported him in glowing terms.

In 1969, his belief in the control of development led to a proposal for land-use planning. McCall wanted to broaden Oregon's industrial base, but at the same time insisted on conserving the environment. His

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proposed legislation (Senate Bill 10) required local governments to complete comprehensive zoning plans within two years.

Perhaps the most famous environmental legislation enacted under McCall was House Bill 1036, the "Bottle Bill," which was the nation's first mandatory bottle-deposit law and was designed to decrease litter in Oregon. The bill was enacted in 1971.

Also in 1970 McCall approved the "Vortex I" rock concert at McIver State Park as a way to divert potential anti-war protestors from rioting during the national American Legion convention in Portland. It was a unique state-supervised event that drew 35,000 participants over several days. Although the danger of rioting was probably minimal, the move nevertheless helped to cement McCall's re-election victory over Robert Straub.

Despite his notoriety as an environmentalist, McCall did side with economic concerns on certain issues, such as timber harvesting (he opposed restrictions on private industry) and nuclear power (he supported the Trojan nuclear facility). With regard to labor concerns, McCall vetoed legislation designed to organize migrant farm workers.

In 1973 land-use planning became a major issue, and Senate Bill 100 from that session was designed to provide state control over land-use decisions. Although the final bill did not go as far as McCall originally intended, a compromise bill forged by L.B. Day, McCall's head of the Dept. of Environmental Quality, created the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

In 1973 McCall developed a plan for tax reform which included an increase in income tax and a freeze on property taxes, with the goal to shift funding for schools away from property taxes and toward the income of the wealthy. He encountered fierce opposition to the plan, and relied on his personal popularity to carry it to victory at the polls. However, the proposal failed with the voters.

In terms of national issues, McCall was a vocal and steady supporter of the war effort in Vietnam. He was one of the first prominent Republicans to publicly call for President Nixon's resignation due to the Watergate scandal. In late May of 1973, McCall called for voluntary measures to help alleviate concerns over the energy crisis. He also ordered extensive conservation measures to be followed by state agencies, and ordered businesses to shut off outdoor lighting to conserve energy. He also supported an innovative gas rationing plan that used vehicles' license-plate numbers ("odd" or "even") to determine when a person could purchase gasoline. The latter idea gained national attention.

McCall left office on Jan. 14, 1975. Despite his famous 1971 quote imploring people not to move to the state, Oregon's population grew 25% during his 8 years in office. He took a job as KATU television's news analyst, and also traveled nationwide supporting other states' efforts to enact bottle bills similar to Oregon's. He actively opposed a 1976 effort to abolish the LCDC, and another effort to dismantle it in 1982. In February 1978 McCall announced he would again run for governor, however his campaign suffered from a lack of both funding and focus, and he was defeated by Victor Atiyeh in the Republican primary.

In December 1982 he was hospitalized, and on Jan. 8, 1983 Tom McCall lost a long battle with cancer. He was buried in Redmond Memorial Cemetery.

### **Inaugural Message, 1967**

Source: Inaugural Message Governor Tom. McCall, Oregon, 1967

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

The ceremonies you have just witnessed have given Oregon a new governor and secretary of state and have sped an outgoing governor on his mission in the United States Senate.

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I joint with you in wishing Secretary of State Myers and Senator-Elect Hatfield auspicious tours of duty and in paying tribute to Mark Hatfield's sixteen years in State Government.

No man has served as governor in this century as long as Mark Hatfield and, to the best of my knowledge, no man has left his imprint on so many state actions, policies and programs.

My earnest hope is that his successor will be equal to the challenges of the four years stretching ahead. An imperative of progress in these years is a rapport between the executive and legislative branches.

If differences there e, let them not arise from any fault in communications, and I pledge to you, for my part, to keep the lines of availability and cooperation constantly open.

In this hour we gather in the common dedication to the people of a great state. We are their creatures. Without their assent we do not exist as public servants.

To the extent it is humanly possible to do so, let us put aside the temptations to be guided by regionalize, factionalism, or anything which fragments the public interest. May we pledge to one another, then, to work, no in partisanship, but in partnership.

It is in this spirit I address you --- and through you, our fellow citizens --- today.

This legislature and this administration are to become perhaps the most closely scrutinized in Oregon's history

I am not referring to the media coverage --- as extensive as that will be.

My observation runs to the anticipations of the people in terms of the gross legislative product.

The pledges of the candidates in last year's hard-fought election led our citizens to expect more than ever of the process we shift into high gear today.

And a substantial number of these citizens are actually demanding more. Certainly in the area of property taxed relief this is strikingly true.

Besides this clear and emphatic mandate, the voters expressed themselves as strongly in favor of steps to prevent the expropriation of Pacific Northwest water by the Southwest ... to bolster safeguards against contamination of our streams, lakes and air ... and to continue the balance of development of our economic, education, highway, recreational and institutional systems.

In my quarter-century of analyzing public concerns, there is not recallable counterpart of this wide, thoughtful interest in so many issues. Under girding this attention, running through the consideration of every program --- are the questions of cost, efficiencies and economy. And on these points one detects an intense public desire for proof that each tax dollar spent is buying on dollars worth of good government.

In this hour of close communication today, let us consider together the citizen and his constitution ... his governments ... his rights ... his intellect ... his environment ... his recreation ... his economy ... the citizen and the labor force ... the citizen --- tax obligations and tax relief.

The citizen and his Constitution

There are many reasons for the so-called drift of power form the states and localities to the nations capital.

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To help bring the exercise of parts of this authority back to where it belongs, the sovereignty of states and people must be reasserted.

This calls for a reinvigoration of the problem-solving punch of state and local government. We cannot continue to wallow in a maze of disorganized taxing districts any more than our states can hope to progress with archaic constitutions that reflect the problems and mores in the heyday of the covered wagon.

Six years ago the people directed the legislature to update our constitution. I urge as a starting point for your consideration that proposal which was presented to the House of Representatives in 1965 with the following modifications:

\*Provide for a lieutenant governor to run in tandem with the governor, but not to preside over the Senate;

\*Create the position of controller for a six-year term on a nonpartisan ballot, the position to have audit and supervisory election functions;

\*Follow the major bar association recommendations on the selection of the judiciary.

I support single member legislative districts, optional annual session of the legislature, a change in the signature base for petitions to a percentage of voters for governor, and tightening restrictions on tax spending.

The Citizen and his Governments

Quality in government is related to structure and the caliber of the men and women who provide the services demanded of government.

On January 3 of this year, I presented the Joint Ways and Means Committee some proposals designed to maintain and enhance competence of personnel.

One dealt with immediate improvement of the salary schedules of most state employees and another with their retirement program. I commend these to you for your earliest consideration.

You will also be interested, I am sure, in other recommendations offered at that time, to grant delayed increases in judicial and legislative salaries and prompt increase in per diem expenses of members of the Assembly.

In the area of structure, nothing is more frustrating to the citizen than the maze of governments which, though established presumably to serve him, sometimes succeed as goals, one of the means toward better governing would be the establishment of an assistant in the governor's office to solidify lines of communication between the state and cities and counties and other local units of government.

This same assistant could help local governments in preparing and negotiating federal grants, stimulate local initiative in problem solving, facilitate cooperative arrangements with other governmental agencies and I would hope could bolster the defense of local units from arbitrary decisions by federal officialdom.

This administration urges prompt action on legislation to transform the Department of Commerce from a provisional to a permanent status. Assurance of its continuation at an early date will facilitate the department's preparations for an even more significant role.

At the heart of government is the entire election process and a complete review of our laws in this connection is in order. We must tighten reporting procedures, apply teachers, and eliminate misleading provisions.

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## The citizen and his Rights

Maintaining the rights of the citizen is a thread that runs through numerous matters other than constitutional revision and election procedures.

In these days of technological advances, we must, for example, be ever vigilant to prevent invasions of privacy by the electronic eye or ear.

The very bigness of government carries with it the enlarged risk of blundering into people's lives. The bigger government grows under the demands we place on it, the smaller many citizens are made to feel.

One of the basic concepts on which our society was founded is the right of the citizen to defend himself --- or be defended --- against unfair, arbitrary, erroneous or capricious government actions.

So believing, I recommend that the legislature create the independent office of "Ombudsman". The occupant would be appointed by the governor to revise and investigate citizen complaints of public servants' unjustifiable inaction, inefficiency, arrogance or abuse of authority.

The system has worked well in Scandinavian countries and New Zealand.

The "Ombudsman" may criticize, suggest improvements in procedures, propose some specific remedy or reject the complaint. But he would not judge individual guilt to innocence, nor have the power to change administrative decisions.

Addition of the "Ombudsman" would offer the citizen still another protection of his rights.

Civil rights is a principle deserving of unflagging support, despite the rise and ebb of controversy, the lack of demonstrations on the part of Oregon's non-whites should not induce the apathetic belief that our state is free from racial disadvantage and bigotry.

Oregon's civil rights laws are adequate to cope with individual cases coming to the attention of authorities. The number of such cases, however, scantily mirrors the width and depth of the predicament of poor non-whites, and whites, as well, who are unemployable in a society which places mounting emphasis on human skills.

Employment is at the base of the whole struggle for civil rights. And conventional and technical training is the key to employability.

The Model School program of Portland School district No. 1 strikes at the problem in early life. The avenues for others of the disadvantages must be widened by stepped-up training. Embracing special courses and vastly more inclusive state apprenticeship program.

## The Citizen and his Intellect

This administration will discuss education in depth in a subsequent special message to the legislature following the completion of the necessary budget work.

We treat with basic school support later in this message --- but suffice it to say concerning other major educational points that more emphasis needs to be placed on:

\*Encouraging expansion of kindergarten by the state on a non-compulsory subsidy basis;

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\*Broadening vocational education at the secondary and post-high school levels; vigorous, effective Portland graduate and research program, while recognizing the inescapable fact that a quality graduate program must be based on a quality undergraduate program;

\*Expanding community colleges to meet regional needs as funds permit and under a coordinated statewide plan of growth and development.

Broadly, we must, within our means, maintain quality higher education through a program providing at least one open door beyond the high school for every student.

#### The Citizen and Crime and Justice

A striking parallel between muffed educational opportunities and delinquent and criminal behavior recurs innumerable times in the records of inmates of our jails and state penal institutions.

To go with strengthened academic and vocational programs at these institutions, the state's treatment complex requires an adult diagnostic center at the penitentiary . . . an indeterminate sentencing law . . . a more professional-type parole board, the functions of which should be transferred to the corrections division . . . and development of more halfway housed and group foster homes.

Expansion of the Pitchford Boys Ranch kind of facility for pre-delinquent boys is urgently needed. This would be consonant with the intensified efforts of the state to join in improving community preventive action against delinquency.

Skyrocketing rates of crime and delinquency also compel us to continue to upgrade our law enforcement complements --- both in caliber and in numbers --- and to re-analyze our court structure.

A positive step toward realization of a state police academy is possible though funding of a heating system for Camp Withycombe, to enable its facilities to be used for police training on a year-round basis.

Police training, equipment and personnel must be augmented both to protect the citizen and help officers to comply with new and more difficult interpretations of criminal law. Hopefully, progress as long these lines will reduce the rising incidence of criminal appeals and cases of delayed justice.

More criminal appeals and more civil litigation put the State Supreme Court at an increasing disadvantage. Its mounting backlog of cases makes it essential to act on one of these alternatives: 1. addition of two justices to the present court, 2. creation of a three-member Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals, or 3. initiation of a system of intermediate courts of appeals.

Also, the new legislature will be faced with a movement favoring family courts. Surely, there can be few detractors of the concept of one court --- instead of as many as five --- handling the problems of a troubled family whose complications may run from criminality and incompatibility to alcoholism and mental illness.

#### The Citizen and his Health and Safety

Great progress has occurred in matters relating to physical health but we have but begun to become effective in programs of public enlightenment as they relate to mental health. We should concentrate efforts on helping emotionally-disturbed children for which adequate state facilities and staff are virtually non-existent. Continued improvement in staffing at all our institutions for the mentally ill and retarded is contemplated. Since more than four-fifths of our mentally retarded are not institutionalized, we should initiate adequate state research education and training regarding the cause, treatment and community care of our retarded. The staffing of social workers in the schools would make significant contributions to our young people and their families. Expansion of community mental health facilities must be pressed.

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The war in Viet Nam and the deadliest of disease take their toll in life and limb in what may appear to be unavoidable ways, diplomatically or medically. But the tragic destruction of humanity on our highways must rank as one of civilization's saddest indictments. This assembly would be well advised to update Oregon's traffic safety statutes by:

\*Reexamination of drivers every four years, with examination every two years for those over 65 years of age;

\*Requirement of specific licensing for school bus drivers;

\*Maximum speed limits on Oregon highways, carrying from place to place and road-to-road depending upon engineering studies including type and condition of road, the amount of traffic and other factors affecting speed;

\*Expansion of driver education programs and providing that no one under 18 receives a driver's license unless he has taken an approved driver training course;

\*Addition of state police officers to the extent their training can be achieved;

\*Requirement that motorcycle operators and their passengers wear safety helmets; and, finally,

\*Establishment of more rigid standards on re-issuance of driver's licenses to chronic violators.

#### The Citizen and his Environment

Health, economic strength, recreation --- in fact, the entire outlook and image of the state --- are tied inseparably to environment.

Water, air, land and scenic pollution threaten these and other values in Oregon --- a state pictured in Oregon's first inaugural address in 1959 as "one of the most attractive portions of the North American continent".

Oregon still merits that description, but to continue to qualify will require:

\*Expansion of State Sanitary Authority staff and operating budget, both of which are more than 60 per cent below the "desirable" standard set by the Public Administration Service in its 1964 study.

\*Intensification of research into development of improved or advanced methods of waste treatment, including disposal of solid wastes such as garbage and old automobile bodies;

\*State matching of up to 25 per cent of the cost for sewage disposal facilities for municipalities and districts, any of which face transition from secondary to costly third-stage treatment;

\*Amendment of sanitary districts' statutes to encourage and facilitate formation of metropolitan units;

\*Prohibition against dumping specifically enumerated materials into waters of the state under any circumstances;

\*Granting of summary abatement power to the Sanitary Authority to cope with flagrant violations;

\*Requiring Sanitary Authority-based building permits to check the possibility of water and air pollution from proposed industrial facilities.

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Provisions for much of the foregoing are made in legislation drafted the request of your excellent ,[[public Health Interim Committee.

IN fact, we must leave no door unopened in battling the menace of contamination of our environment.

We must put an engineer on the Sanitary Authority and a sanitarian on the Board of Health.

We must broaden our perspective and involve the Western States Water Council in pollution control on interstate streams.

#### The Citizen and His Recreation

Additional safeguards of environment are inherent in programs to acquire inland recreation lands, preserve more beach areas for public use, beautify our highways and augment our inventories of fish and game.

On or about March 1, I will send you recommendations for implementing the Willamette Recreational Greenway suggested by State Treasurer Straub and endorsed by me. Volunteer and full-time task forces and working up a program for this exciting development.

The Highway Department, in providing money and personnel for the Greenway study, feels it can share in this commitment now and in the future and still meet its other recreation obligations.

One of the most pressing of these is acquisition of beach lands. Few realize that the state owns Oregon's beaches only up to the median high-water mark.

The Department has launched a program to provide beach accesses every three miles at an eventual total cost of \$8,000,000. Legislation is needed in this session to enable the Department to obtain title to these vital lands through adversary proceedings.

Oregon's Game Commission has revived no general license fee adjustment since 1950. Since then, the proportion of total income attributable to licenses and tags has dropped 10 per cent, and inflation has sheared more than 30 cents from each dollar available to the Commission.

Higher license fees are essential to mounting adequately-financed management and research programs in an era of unprecedented demands on Oregon's fish and game. We should not tolerate further delay in authorizing the proposed fee schedule.

With these increase in effect, the status of fish and game populations can be improved --- providing the finest angling and hunting in Oregon's history for any army of resident and out-of-state sportsmen.

#### The Citizen and his Economy

The abundance of fish and game, the purity of water and air, the serenity of scenic open space --- all tremendously worthwhile in themselves --- are also vital economic factors in Oregon.

These contributors to Oregon's cherished livability complement an natural resource complex that feeds the state's principal wellsprings of income; forest products, agriculture and tourism.

The pattern of Oregon's economy, geography and population incidence makes ours a state on wheels. A 1 cent-per-gallon increase in the state gasoline tax is needed to help keep Oregon's highway system first in all the nation and to provide property tax relief.

The Threat from the Southwest of expropriation of our most precious resource, water, demands a speed-up of our water needs study though additional funding. The governors of Washington, Idaho, Montana and

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Wyoming have personally assured me they will move to accelerate similar research effects in their respective states.

As soon as feasible, Oregon must also initiate engineering studying to determine the broad specifications for irrigation works to open expanses of Eastern Oregon to cultivation.

Those who till the soil and furnish the staples of our table will make increasing contributions to the state's income in other ways. The recommendations of your imaginative interim Committee on Agriculture are worthy of your prompt consideration, for research, marketing insights and trade must undergo further advances.

Throttling limitations on the Land Board in its administration of hundreds of thousands of acres of Common School fund grazing and forest lands must be lifted. This can be accomplished through constitutional amendment or revision to provide flexibility for better management in keeping with multiple-use guidelines.

Your able Interim Committee on Public Lands has so recommended and has also prepared two memorials to the Congress.

WE recommend you support of these request to Washington to clarify federal and trading policies and review the allowable timber cut on federal lands in the state. There is abundant evidence that these timber resources can withstand a heavier harvest without doing violence to sustained-yield principles.

#### The Citizen and the Labor Force

Unemployment compensation is more than just a stipend for the temporarily unfortunate. It must be viewed as insurance guaranteeing that families will not have to seek our welfare due to temporary loss of employment. Two immediate changes are necessary to make Oregon's unemployment compensation program more actuarially sound; 1. We need to identify the schedule of rates for employers to provide for eight levels rather than four; and 2. We need to develop a sliding-scale concept of payments whereby a percentage of the state average wage or the recipient's average wage, whichever is lower, would be considered the minimum base. This flexibility is essential if we are to avoid repeated legislative controversy and meet changing conditions.

Any controversy between management and labor, or any dislocation that strains employment relation creates a hardship on Oregon's economy and an inconvenience to the public that can drastically effect our state. It is therefore incumbent upon state government to provide more workable machinery in the area on employment relations. This administration proposes the creation of an Oregon Employment Relations Agency where the administration for all employee-employer laws would be centralized. This agency would be empowered to establish election procedures, to regulate employment practices and to provide counsel in employment disputes. IT would also be empowered t undertake fact-finding procedures s a method of resolving disputes.

#### The Citizen --- Tax Obligations and Tax Relief

Despite the 1966 dip in our forest products revenue, a strong, increasingly diversified economy has supported state government services at an ever-rising level.

But for too many years Oregon educations, citizens and politicians have given lip service to the goal of 50 per cent state support of primary and secondary education.

For too many years no significant progress has been made toward that objective and the burden has fallen more heavily of the property taxpayer.

It is time to act.

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This administration's budget proposes a state-supported program providing slightly less than \$600 per child in the next school year and slightly more than \$600 per child in the ensuing school year.

Half of this amount would be distributed by means of a basic grant for each pupil. THE other half would come from a combination of state and local funds geared to local needs and resources.

This program, together with existing federal programs, appears adequate to meet particularly responsibilities of Oregon's largest school district with its concentration of disadvantaged children. Were it not so, a special grant program to deal with that problem would be recommended.

Likewise, the costs of transportation can be encompassed in this basic proposal without the recourse to special grants.

Further, there will be no need for continuation of existing county and intermediate school levies.

Thus we arrive at a simple two-part formula which together with the local districts' levy will supply adequate and understandable support for Oregon's public schools. In fact, the state's share of this support would represent an increase of \$150,000,000 in the coming biennium.

For all but a handful of school districts, principally those that have not reorganized, the existing level of operations and normal growth can be funded with a maximum levy of 1 per cent of market value of taxable property.

This administration, therefore proposes that such a limit be established for property taxes for school operation purposes.

Let me say to my friends in education that I could not espouse an increase of important blocks of state aid will be directed to cities and counties.

The programs, responsibilities and sizes of local taxing units, other than schools, vary too greatly to make any percentage limitation on their property taxes appropriate. It is feasible, however, to encourage their recourse to use charges and other no property tax sources.

To that end this administration recommends repeal of the Constitutional provision allowing an automatic 6 per cent increase in tax base each year.

Local units should be required to present any increase in property taxes to a vote of the people at the time of the statewide primary or general election or at a special election to be held at a uniform date each year.

Funding of the foregoing program of school support and property tax relief can be accomplished with additional state revenues approximating \$35,000,000 a year.

Only if the legislature wishes to grant must more substantial property tax relief can there be justification for the Assembly to refer a sales tax to the people.

This administration's proposals, however, permit state government to adhere to its traditional revenue mainstay, the income tax. By having exercised prudence in our budgetary review, we have been able to propose property tax relief far in excess of budgetary review we have been able to propose property tax relief far in excess of increased income taxed recommended.

We propose only an approximate 15 per cent increase in the income tax. At the same time we would lighten the worry and bother on the individual of coping with income tax forms and administration. We would do

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this by having most income taxpayers report simply the taxable income shown on their federal return together with the computation of state tax.

Those with large and more complex incomes would use the same brief state form but accompany it with a copy of their federal income tax return. No longer, involved state return would be required.

Since business is a larger proportionate beneficiary of property tax relief than the average individual, we propose a one-third increase in corporate income and excise taxes.

A detailed message on the subject covered under this heading will be presented to the Assembly shortly. Included will be tables showing the distribution of state aid to each school district, precise budget figures, schedules displaying the impact of tax changes, and relevant draft legislation.

#### The Unspoken issue

The problems and opportunities outlines to you are weighty indeed. But as forbidding as some of them may appear, we who are on the home front have as the unspoken issue on our hearts and minds those men serving to preserve our way of life in Viet Nam and elsewhere.

Legislation has been provided which makes state educational benefits available to Oregon veterans who earn the American Expeditionary Medal. Benefits should be extended by constitutional means so that these same new veterans could qualify for the self-sustaining farm and home loan program which has meant so much to their predecessors and to the economy of our state. We can do no less in thanksgiving for their sacrifices.

#### The overriding Challenge

A few weeks ago I said, "The overriding challenge --- the umbrella issue --- of the campaign and the decade is quality --- quality of life in Oregon."

I respectfully suggest that the proposals this administration has submitted to you today will meet the challenge and further dramatize the significance of that issue.

Your oath of office and mine mark the moment of truth.

In these weeks and months as we labor together, as winter turns to spring, hope and expectation abound throughout our state that we will devote ourselves imaginatively and selflessly to the tasks at hand.

To this end I here solemnly vow --- in the proudest hour of my life --- to join you fully and completely in assuring the people of Oregon we will work with all of the talents and good will at our command in their service.

#### **Legislative Message, 1969**

Source: Legislative Message Governor Tom McCall, Oregon, 1969

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Fifty-Fifth Legislative Assembly, and fellow Citizens:

We meet today in the face of great challenge and unrivaled opportunity. If we chose the right tools to meet the change, then we can seize the opportunity, and the progressive course of our cherished state will be ensured. With the moon feats of our astronauts to give us new reach and inspiration, this is the year of choosing. This session of the 55th Legislative Assembly is the Occasion. And you, the members, are the instruments of destiny.

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This is True because we, all of us, stand this morning in the anteroom of a new decade. It will be a period of enormous obstacles. John Gardner says of what lies ahead, "While we pursue old feuds and shiver before old ghosts, new and terrifying troubles await us --- and we cannot face those new troubles with any clarity of mind or unity of purpose while we are caught in old definitions of the problem."

Months before the former secretary of Health, Education and Welfare wrote those words last September, my administration was pursuing the new definitions and map words last September, my administration was pursuing the new definitions and mapping new pathways into Oregon's future.

Now, thousands of man-hours later, we are proposing what we are convinced is a perceptive response to the need to prepare in this last year of the old decade for the ten years of the new.

The response consists of many elements, most of which have already been made known to you.

In recent weeks, the Project 70s Task Force has published its study on reorganization and we have presented our office's reorganization proposals and programs of major tax reform and beach and greenway acquisition.

Meanwhile, the legislature, too, has responded with the interim contributions of a number of its committees working in major problem areas.

Both the Project 70s Task Force and a legislative interim study group have dwelt on procedures for strengthening the state's lawmaking branch. While this administration favors many of their specific recommendations, we open today by endorsing an attitude which is stressed in the Project 70s report.

The Task Force emphasized that the executive and legislative branches must identify must more closely in dealing with the broad and complex problems of the 1970s. In particular, it noted too much of a "we" and "they" orientation of the two branches --- and outlook that fosters separateness instead of sorely-needed cooperation.

It is my pledge today to work with you to break down such artificial and superficial barriers as there are to a more productive relationship.

Now to the substantive.

The Project 70s Task Force recommendations on executive reorganization require both statutory and constitutional implementation. We trust you will make revision of the Oregon Constitution one of your top orders of business again this session.

It is respectfully suggested that the legislature offer the voters those Task Force recommendations which require constitutional sanction as part of the revision referral process.

It goes without saying that the same serious attention needs to be accorded those Task Force and gubernatorial organizational proposals --- unrelated to the constitution --- that can be effected by legislative action.

These courses are complementary, not conflictory.

Implementation of constitutional reorganization of the executive branch might at best take place over a period of as long as four years.

In the meantime, amalgamation of the sprawling complex of 285 state agencies, boards, commissions and committees should be pushed as far as possible by legislative and executive action in 1969 and 1971.

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Reorganization includes not only strengthening the state's legislative and executive branches but structuring highly useful state-local and state-federal partnerships as well.

Elimination of the Board of Control, which does not involve a constitutional question, is a likely early objective of any meaningful reorganization effort. The Board's perpetuation far beyond its era of usefulness blocks the most significant consolidation move of all: creation of the unified Department of Social Services.

Only through such a comprehensive entity can we effectively respond to the grinding problems of the economically, physically and educationally handicapped, regardless of whether you see them in the city or rural slum or whether they are invisible marchers in the army of the poverty-stricken.

In this connection, our administration is preparing legislative recommendations focused on these areas of challenge. But more than anything else, all of us are benefited by those thrusts that protect Oregon's basic environment.

It is crucial to the enhancement of Oregon's legibility that the proposed Department of Environmental quality include air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, and environmental controls such as those enforced by the Columbia Gorge Commission and Scenic Area Board.

We further noted in our early December statement, "if other environmental controls are initiated by the next legislature, such as and use planning and zoning or notice abatement, this will be the logical department to assume the responsibility."

The time to promulgate state-wide land use planning and zoning is now. The Interim Committee on Agriculture has so recommended, as have our natural resource and local government officials. The physical evidence on all sides of us speaks even louder than words.

Although you will shortly receive a special message on this subject, suffice it to say today that in one area alone --- the protection of our beaches, scenic riverbanks and recreation lands in general --- zoning will be of incalculable benefit.

Every effort is being made today to avoid imposing on your time and indulgence with a long list of specifics, but here is the place to urge you to ensure financing of necessary beach, Willamette riverbank and other special acquisitions.

As an early order of business, I ask you to amend the 1951 Bonding Act of Highways so as to authorize the Highway Commission to sell bonds at the effective interest rate in the market at the time the bonds are offered. The Highway Commission has provided assurance that \$15,000,000 in bond proceeds can be used for these special acquisition purposes between now and 1974 without risking the Commission's existing commitments.

IN discussing the 1969-71 budget last month, this administration underlined the importance of giving the new Department of Environmental Quality bonding authority to help localities with water pollution projects, including reservoirs.

Since then the Hardy committee of the State Sanitary Authority has recommended water pollution. The committee's advocacy of bonding capacity of 1 per cent of the state's true cash value, equal to \$165,000,000, has my support.

Your attention is respectfully directed to essentials of a variety of other relevant and authoritative reports by committees inside and outside the legislature.

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This administration's recommendation for creation of a Department of Transportation also is the lead recommendation of the Legislative Interim Committee on Business Climate. The concept draws additional support from the Legislative Interim Committee on Agriculture.

There is not total agreement on every detail. Nevertheless, there is substantial agreement that the department's several divisions should include one to coordinate and promote port activities.

In its report to the 55th Legislature, the Oregon Port Authorities Commission recommends establishment of a state port agency "to coordinate the development and financing of Oregon's 23 port districts and Portland's Commission of Public Docks." I support this concept.

The terms of five members of the state-appointed Port of Portland governing body are up. I have asked the five, and they have consented, to continue to serve without certificates of appointment until the Legislature decides what the size, shape and powers of a state-wide or regional port authority ought to be.

The study groups just mentioned all have exhibited timely consent with developing export markets and expanding international commerce. Experiences of the recently returned Oregon Trade Mission to the Orient amply confirm the rightness of this emphasis.

I ask that the legislature move to strengthen Oregon's foreign trade hand by gearing up port capabilities, creating a world trade unit in the Division of Economic Development and giving encouragement to government and private interests to invigorate the process of overseas contact.

A husky, well-rounded Oregon economy is tied to our ability to diversify, expand international and domestic trade and tourism, upgrade agriculture, compete hard for international and domestic trade and tourism, upgrade agriculture, compete hard for new payrolls and assist existing Oregon plants and offices.

All of these economic foundation stones would be furthered by establishment of a State of Oregon office in Washington D. C., to work with the various agencies and report consistently good economy results for their states from such an enterprise.

Actually, the next four years could, if exploited wisely, bring Oregon closer to Washington than ever before. Coming on the heels of the Johnson administrator's better communications with the statehouses, the Nixon-Agnew dedication to a viable state-federal relationship may give rich meaning to the word "federalism: in this Jet Age.

Though memorials to congress, though these new direct contacts, and at attentive congressional delegation, we have an unparalleled opportunity to make our causes more visible to the federal establishment.

The most signification point we can get across is the Interim Committee on Public Land's finding that public forest management be given a share of public forest revenues. One is intrigued by the committee's thesis that application of more public forest revenues to timber management can enrich Oregon's economy by tens of millions of dollars per year.

WE must impress on the legislative and executive branches in Washington our concern over stratospheric interest rates that tend to paralyze Oregon's economy, our anxiety over future thermal pollution, our annoyance over the red tape of the federal gun control act and our desire for a revised Columbia River Fisheries compact and accelerated sea grant and oceanography programs.

WE must help make a case to the national government for the setting of nationwide welfare standards and for Washington's assumption of the financing of the total welfare program. Despite the 30 per cent increase in the new state budget for welfare, I still feel, as governor, like the principal accomplice in a plot to degrade, miniature and poorly clothe and house thousands of the crippled, the elderly and the innocent young.

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Among other changed to emphasize to Washington is the essentiality of setting up education appropriations in a timely fashion --- letting the states know in March or April what will be available so that local budgets can be fashioned accordingly with certainty instead of confusion.

Education as much as anything except taxes --- and they are scarcely separable --- is a paramount concern in the 47 states where legislatures meet this month.

This administration has suggested that we take off where we left off in the 1967 special session, using the same proposals for establishing current school district tax bases, applying and financing a limitation and raising state support of local school operations to 50 per cent.

It is now apparent, however, that we must seek a more equitable limitation formula than that contained in the special session legislation.

I am confident all of us can work out these problems in the context that Oregonians will continue to meet the costs of educational quality.

I am confident you will move a program of substantial tax relief and tax reform on to the people for an early vote.

I am confident of you earnest endeavors also to evolve the soundest possible legislation on reorganization, institutions, commerce, law enforcement, environmental cleanliness and wise use of resources.

Resources mean people as well as the water and earth and their products. Whether they be the residents of a farm labor camp or racial ghetto or dwellers in affluence, all should stand equal before the law, regardless of age, color or gender.

However, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians have suffered needless dental disease because they were children without fluoride in their water supply.

Women are discriminated against by abortion laws that are callous tools of shame instead of useful social instruments.

Injured workmen receive pitifully inadequate payments during the period of temporary total disability.

Sharply qualified, keenly concerned Oregonians are barred from the voting booth because, at 18, 19, and 20, they are "too young." And they must be appalled at the striking evidence that Oregon election laws are lacking in other areas as well.

Then there is the other and greater continuing injustice we inflict on other young adults: our men in uniform to whom a confused society says by implication, "Go die in Viet Nam or go to prison --- and, in either case, many of your fellow Americans will curse you."

The power of redress of many wrongs reposes in our legislative chambers. There can even be a cheer for those far-away warriors in the form of new and higher standards for veterans farm and home loans.

But whatever action we take --- sweeping or compact --- the important thing is that it point in the right direction, that it be designed to help us traverse, whole and healthily, the tunnel of the 1970s.

The daylight at the other end is a long way into the future, but the historic voyagers to the mood dwarfed distance and cowed ancient dogma, giving us earthlings a fresh sense of the worthiness of our planet.

May it ever reign, as Astronaut James A. Lovell, Jr. called it, "A grand oasis in the vastness of space."

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There is not more felicitous part of the "grand oasis" than our Oregon. And keeping Oregon a quality part is what being legislators and governor is all about.

So to the work of the session, each of us hopefully determined to avoid overt partisanship.

So to the work of the session, each of us hopefully aware that too often the citizen has heard issues torn to tatters on the basis of who thought of them first --- on the basis of who will get the credit and who will get the blame.

So to the work of the session, each of us hopefully realizing that youth, nor resources, nor time are given us in unlimited quantities.

There is just so much of each allotted to us to use as we may. Then the contract is dissolved.

When past generations faced crises, however, they did not live in an age of international simultaneity of an age of the instant replay. They had the lax afternoon luxury of slowness on their side. They could "wait and see." They could fall in spectacular depth with the dubious comfort of knowing the "future generations" which their actions had damaged were far enough in the future that a confrontation would never happen.

It's easy to step aside --- ignore the call --- shirk a duty --- take the selfish route --- when that day of assessment is comfortably beyond the time of all living men.

WE don't live in separate generations anymore, well-insulated from each other by pages and pages of history. There are several generations of us here at once. IT is hard to face the questioning stare of one's contemporaries.

Destiny has suddenly become a thing of more and shorter growing seasons. No largest can be bequeathed. We reap together, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so help us God.