

TEXT OF SPEECH

TODAY, BECAUSE OF THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO NEVER LOST FAITH IN ME OR LOST SIGHT OF MY VISION FOR PROVIDENCE, I AM PRIVILEGED TO DELIVER MY FOURTH INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

SINCE SUCH MESSAGES, BY DEFINITION, SPEAK TO THE FUTURE, I WILL PLACE MY FOCUS THERE. YESTERDAY IS NOT OURS TO RECOVER.....BUT TOMORROW IS OURS TO WIN OR TO LOSE.

IN STRIVING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BE DEVOID OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, FOR EXPERIENCE IS THE GREATEST AND MOST MEMORABLE OF TEACHERS. WHAT DOES THIS PERSPECTIVE REVEAL?

SINCE 1975, WHEN I DELIVERED MY FIRST INAUGURAL MESSAGE, PROVIDENCE HAS EXPERIENCED MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENT.....YET SOME PROBLEMS PERSIST, AND OTHERS HAVE RE-EMERGED IN THE YEARS SINCE I LEFT OFFICE.

IN 1975, THE ECONOMY WAS IN RECESSION; IT IS IN EVEN DEEPER RECESSION TODAY. IN 1975, OUR CITY'S NEIGHBORHOODS WERE IN DECLINE. ALTHOUGH WE DRAMATICALLY REVERSED THAT TREND, THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVE BEEN A TIME OF NEIGHBORHOOD REGRESSION.

IN 1975, AS A NOVICE MAYOR, I WAS CONFRONTED WITH SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO MUNICIPAL FINANCE; TODAY, THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALSO WITH US -- BUT THEY ARE NOW ON A SCALE THAT IS STAGGERING.

MY PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE PROVIDENCE BUDGET DISCLOSES THAT THE CITY FACES A REVENUE SHORTFALL OF MORE THAN THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR -- ONLY SIX MONTHS FROM NOW.

NO AMOUNT OF FISCAL MANIPULATION, ROSY PREDICTIONS, OR NEWSPAPER EDITORIALIZING WILL CAUSE THIS CONDITION TO EVAPORATE.

REFORMS IN FISCAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CAN, HOWEVER, ALLEVIATE THE BURDEN. TO THIS END, I HAVE ALREADY APPOINTED A DISTINGUISHED BUDGET TASK FORCE TO DEVISE SOLUTIONS.

WHETHER THEIR PROPOSED REMEDIES WILL BE SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CONDITION OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, ONLY TIME WILL REVEAL. BUT ON THIS INAUGURAL DAY, ONE FACT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR....PROVIDENCE NOW HAS A FISCAL CRISIS OF GREAT MAGNITUDE THAT MUST BE RESOLVED IF WE ARE TO MOVE THIS CITY FORWARD.

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, WE ARE FORTUNATE INDEED TO HAVE A GREAT PROVIDENCE CITIZEN AND CIVIC LEADER, OUR NEW GOVERNOR -- A MAN WHO KNOWS FIRST-HAND OUR CITY'S NEEDS.

RHODE ISLAND ALSO FACES A BANKING CRISIS. I REALIZE THAT SOME PROVIDENCE TAXPAYERS ARE FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BECAUSE MANY BANKS ARE CLOSED. THOSE TAXPAYERS NEED OUR HELP.

AS MAYOR, I WILL PROPOSE A PLAN TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT WILL GIVE THOSE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE BANKING CRISIS ADDITIONAL TIME TO PAY THEIR TAX BILLS. NO TAXPAYER WILL BE PENALIZED FOR THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ASK THE CITIZENS TO TRUST THEM; NOW PUBLIC OFFICIALS MUST TRUST THE PEOPLE.

OF COURSE, OUR CITY'S PROBLEMS GO BEYOND THOSE OF THE MOMENT. WE MUST IMPROVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, ATTACK THE DUAL PROBLEMS OF DRUGS AND VIOLENT CRIME, IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REVITALIZE THE DOWNTOWN, CREATE JOBS, AND GIVE NEW HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY TO THE DISPOSSESSED.

WE MUST FIND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MANY PROBLEMS. BUT THERE IS ONE GREAT PROBLEM OF SUCH URGENCY THAT I MUST ADDRESS IT EVERY DAY....I REFER TO THE GROWING EVIL OF CRIME AND DRUGS.

COMBATTING CRIME -- PROVIDENCE'S PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE -- WILL BE THE MAJOR PRIORITY....AND THE MOST URGENT MISSION....OF MY NEW ADMINISTRATION.

CRIME, AND DRUGS, ARE THE CITY'S MOST LETHAL DISEASE. IT SAPS THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE, IT TARNISHES THE CITY'S IMAGE, IT DEPRESSES LAND VALUES, IT PROMPTS AN OUT-MIGRATION OF LAW-ABIDING RESIDENTS, IT DESTROYS THE TAX BASE, IT INCREASES THE COST OF HEALTH CARE, IT PLACES A DRAIN ON THE CITY BUDGET, AND IT EXACTS A HORRIBLE TOLL IN HUMAN MISERY.

SUCH A DIBILITATING DISEASE CANNOT BE IGNORED; IT MUST BE ATTACKED WITH EVERY PREVENTIVE DEVICE AT OUR DISPOSAL....BECAUSE IT POSES THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS, AND THE MAJOR CHALLENGE TO PROVIDENCE'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER IN THE CAPITAL CITY, THE MAYOR MUST LEAD THE CAMPAIGN TO TAKE BACK OUR STREETS AND TO RESTORE THE SECURITY OF OUR HOMES BY EXERCISING INTELLIGENT, FIRM AND RELENTLESS LEADERSHIP. THIS I WILL DO!

THE MAIN FOCUS OF MY NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL BE CRIME REDUCTION AND DRUG CONTROL THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM WHICH STRESSES BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AN ATTACK ON THE SOURCES OF STREET CRIME.

EDUCATION, DECENT JOBS, RACIAL HARMONY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWAL ARE AS IMPORTANT TO FIGHTING CRIME AS A WELL-TRAINED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED, AND EFFICIENT POLICE FORCE.

BUT LAW ENFORCEMENT COMES FIRST. OUR CITIZENS MUST FEEL SAFE. I WILL GIVE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR POLICE FORCE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO WIN THIS WAR AGAINST CRIME AND DRUGS -- AND MAKE OUR STREETS SAFE AGAIN FOR DECENT, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

TO SUCCEED, WE WILL NEED A NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH THE RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE. THIS IMPORTANT RESOURCE SHOULD SUPPLEMENT THE ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS OF THE PROVIDENCE POLICE. THEY MUST SHARE INFORMATION, EXPERTISE, TECHNOLOGY AND MANPOWER IN A HARMONIOUS MANNER.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL FORGE AN EFFECTIVE CRIME-FIGHTING ALLIANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO DISTINGUISHED DEPARTMENTS....THIS I ASSURE YOU, COLONEL CULHANE.

DESPITE MY VICTORY IN THE HOTLY-CONTESTED MAYORAL ELECTION OF 1990, THERE ARE SOME WHO CLAIM THAT I HAVE NO MANDATE FROM THE PEOPLE.....THEY ARE WRONG!

I CONSIDER THAT VOTE A MANDATE TO HEAL DIVISIONS AMONG OUR CITIZENRY, A MANDATE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS, A MANDATE TO REACH OUT TO THE DISAFFECTED, A MANDATE TO CONVINCE SKEPTICS, AND A MANDATE TO WIN THE RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF THOSE SIXTY-FOUR PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE WHO CAST THEIR VOTES AGAINST ME. TRULY, MY ELECTION WAS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE!

THE THEME OF MY MANDATE IS TOGETHERNESS. THE SUCCESSES OF THE SEVENTIES WERE ACHIEVED NOT BY ME ALONE....NOR EVEN BY ME PRIMARILY....BUT BY A BROAD COALITION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND GROUPS FROM EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, AND FROM EVERY ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND RELIGIOUS HERITAGE WORKING IN HARMONY.

- 12 -

TODAY I RENEW THAT CALL TO THE PEOPLE OF
PROVIDENCE....WHO LOVE THIS CITY AS I DO....TO RE-UNITE IN
THE CAUSE OF CIVIC BETTERMENT.

WHEN I ANNOUNCED MY CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR, I LISTED MY
REASONS FOR RUNNING. AMONG THEM WAS THE NEED FOR
VINDICATION.

BUT, LEST YOU CONSIDER THIS A SELFISH MOVITIVE, LET ME
ASSERT TODAY THAT MY VINDICATION WAS NOT IN MY ELECTORAL
VICTORY....IT WILL BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY MY COMMENDABLE
PERFORMANCE AS YOUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

TO BE EVEN MORE SPECIFIC: MY VINDICATION WILL BE
INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE QUALITIES OF HONESTY AND
GOVERNMENTAL INTEGRITY.

THESE MUST BE THE HALLMARKS OF MY NEW ADMINISTRATION,
OR I WILL FAIL TO EARN YOUR TRUST OR MERIT YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT.

TODAY, AT MY FOURTH, YET MOST SOLEMN AND MOST
SATISFYING INAUGURATION, I LOOK FORWARD, WITH GUARDED
OPTIMISM, TO A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS....BUT
WITH A GAZE TEMPERED BY REALITY AND EXPERIENCE.

MY ASPIRATIONS ARE BEST CAPTURED BY A PHRASE COINED BY
NOVELIST GRAHAM GREENE, WHO REMINDS US, AND I QUOTE,
"THERE ALWAYS COMES A MOMENT IN TIME WHEN A DOOR OPENS AND
LETS THE FUTURE IN."

- 14 -

FOR PROVIDENCE, JANUARY 7, 1991 IS SUCH A MOMENT.

WITH FIRM RESOLVE TO MAKE PROVIDENCE THE BEST THAT IT
CAN BE, LET OUR FUTURE HERE BEGIN!

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*Vince A. Cianci
Mayor*