

# SENATE . . . . No. 540

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ADDRESS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE  
SENATE JANUARY 3, 1951 BY HON. RICHARD  
I. FURBUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

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### *Fellow Senators:*

It is with gratitude — and a sense of deep humility — that I accept the great honor which you have bestowed on me today — the Presidency of the Massachusetts Senate for the ensuing two years.

It is a great honor because, since this historic legislative body first assembled in 1780 and until today, only 79 men have been so honored. You have chosen me the 80th and the first from my native city of Waltham.

From the Honorable Thomas Cushing, the first President of this Senate, down through the 170 years to my immediate predecessor the Honorable Harris S. Richardson, this body was presided over by great men — men of strength and character — men who gave unselfishly of their time and energy to make Massachusetts a leader among the states of the Union in periods of war, peace, depression and prosperity. Many of them distinguished themselves later in public service and higher office, including the Presidency of the United States.

Hence my task is not an easy one — the task of carrying on the work of a long line of distinguished predecessors in the great tradition set by their fine examples and accomplishments.

Perhaps at no time during these 170 years has our country been in a more critically dangerous position

than at this very moment. Because of aggressor nations American blood is flowing on the soil of Korea. Mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts are broken-hearted at the news of their loved ones killed in action.

The grave spectre of uncertainty hovers over us caused by differing views on the crisis expounded by men in high places. Shadows of grave concern are on the faces of our young men and women.

A state of emergency — preparedness for war — civil defense — restrictions, curtailments, longer work-weeks, sacrifices — yes, and increased taxes. These are what we find as we convene here today at the opening of the 157th session of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Can you and I do something about it? Yes, we can. And I trust that we will.

It is my hope that every member of this Senate will be present during this entire session.

It is my hope that every Senator will expedite his or her duties in an orderly, efficient manner.

It is my hope that this Senate will not put off until tomorrow the decisions that can be made today.

It is my hope that all committees will report their bills at the earliest possible moment — thereby avoiding a long session and in turn saving the taxpayers' money.

I sincerely hope that matters pertaining to our national security will be debated and decided on a non-partisan basis.

In short, Fellow Senators, I trust that this Senate will so conduct itself that it sets an example to all Massachusetts citizens as to what their conduct should be during a national emergency.

Our emphasis should be placed strictly on what is good for our state and communities as a whole. For instance:

That which is good for industry — and industry alone — may not necessarily be good for the community.

That which is good for labor — and labor alone — may not necessarily be good for the community.

That which is good for special groups — and special

groups alone — may not necessarily be good for the community.

We should be on the alert to make sure that legislation is molded in such a fashion as to benefit the greatest overall segment of our people. We should act to strengthen our state and nation in these days of national peril. In times so critical we cannot afford the luxury of “politics as usual”.

The security of our country is more important than the welfare of any political party.

In conclusion, let me announce that the door of the President’s office is open and it will remain open to every member of this Senate regardless of his party affiliations. I will cooperate with you all in every possible way.

I will try to be a good President. I ask each of you to help me to be a good President.

We have a big job ahead of us. It is a challenge to every member of this Senate. With a spirit of cooperation and patriotism and the guiding influence of divine principle, I am sure we can meet this challenge.

