

FOR RELEASE 3:30 PM WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 14, 1976

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR DUKAKIS

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT. IT MEANS THAT WE CAN NOW MOVE FORWARD TOWARD OUR GOAL OF MODERNIZING STATE GOVERNMENT.

IN MY STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS LAST WEEK, I MADE CLEAR MY COMMITMENT TO REFORM OF STATE GOVERNMENT, THAT REFORM IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH SERVICES THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE.

BUT THERE CAN BE NO REFORM, THERE CAN BE NO ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, THERE CAN BE NO RESPONSIVENESS TO CITIZENS' NEEDS IF THE HEADS OF STATE AGENCIES MUST GO TO THE LEGISLATURE AND WAIT MONTHS TO FILL A SINGLE VACANCY.

NO STATE GOVERNMENT CAN OPERATE WITH THOSE RESTRICTIONS, WE CANNOT TIE THE HANDS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS IF WE EXPECT THEM TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

THOUGH I AM PLEASED WITH THE COURT'S DECISION IN LIFTING THOSE RESTRICTIONS, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OVER THE NEED TO

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CONTROL EXPENDITURES. AS I ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK, WE WILL HAVE NO DEFICIT THIS FISCAL YEAR AND I WILL SUBMIT A BALANCED BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1977.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE LEGISLATURE HAS A CLEAR AND IMPORTANT ROLE IN MONITORING EXPENDITURES TO SEE THAT WE ABIDE BY THE LAW. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY BUCKLEY TO MEET WITH HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS TO IMPROVE EXISTING MONITORING PROCEDURES SO THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAY BE FULLY INFORMED AT ALL TIMES OF THE STATE OF OUR FISCAL AFFAIRS. THIS KIND OF LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR GOALS. I AM CONFIDENT SUCH COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE.