

Gov. Rudy Perpich - Inaugural Address, December 29, 1976

(as reported in the Minneapolis Star (December 30, 1976))

"Mr. Chief Justice, members of the court, members of the Legislature, distinguished guests and fellow citizens of Minnesota.

"I wish to express my appreciation to Gov. Anderson for his outstanding leadership during the past six years. He has committed himself to making our state a better place to live, to work and to do business. And to Mary Anderson for the gracious hospitality she has extended to Lola and our family. I welcome Alec and Janice Olson to our partnership in the coming years.

"Forty-three years ago I entered kindergarten in a small school on Minnesota's Iron Range. At that time the nation was in the throes of the Great Depression. Millions were unemployed, many were ill-nourished or ill-housed and few had any real economic security. As I entered class that day, my father was unemployed and spoke no English. And yet, today, I have taken the oath of office as the 34th governor of Minnesota. That could not happen in many parts of the world.

"For this great honor I owe a debt of gratitude to the people of our state who provided us with an excellent educational system which allowed me, my brothers and others of my generation to achieve the most of which we are capable.

"But more importantly I owe a debt to my dedicated parents, Mary and Anion Perpich. My father, an Immigrant, was attracted to the United States by the opportunities he envisioned. My parents worked long hours under difficult conditions in order to secure a college education and assure a better way of life for their children. And I am very happy that they can both be here to see their oldest son become the governor of Minnesota.

"It is this dedication, spirit and hard work, which I inherited from my parents, that I pledge to utilize for the benefit of the people of Minnesota. I pledge to work hard so that present and future generations will have the same opportunities I had and will be able to enjoy the highest quality of life and live a little bit better than ever before.

"Thank you, my fellow Minnesotans, for the opportunity to serve you as governor of this great state."