

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SAINT PAUL



P R O C L A M A T I O N

Governor Floyd B. Olson lies calm and peaceful in the embrace of death. His pain-wracked body may moulder into ashes but his spirit marches on. That spirit was a quickening and inspiring influence in the recent campaign.

Had Governor Olson lived he would have been forty-five years old the 13th of November, 1936. In these hours the past rises before us like a dream and it presents various scenes from the life of the late Governor. We note this son of immigrant parents, born in humble circumstances, bearing an American given name. As a lad Floyd sold newspapers upon the streets, labored through vacations beside his father in a lumber yard. As a youth he wandered into Canada and on to Alaska in quest of gold. He worked his way through a night law school and was admitted to the bar. In due time, politics beckoned to him and political defeat was followed by political victory.

He came to feel that the times were muddled and out of joint and tried to set them right by going to the roots of the trouble. He was a radical, if, by this word, one means a person who holds the most advanced or progressive views.

Who that heard him can ever forget the impression he made when, as Governor, he first addressed the Legislature? There he stood, young, tall, lithe, well groomed and typically Nordic. He had a voice which was exceptionally low, strong, rich and sweet, -- a veritable organ tone. He was an orator of great power and appeal.

The heart of the people went out to him as to few other leaders in the history of Minnesota. He, in turn, held close the cause of the people. A close personal friend of his observes that Floyd B. Olson will undoubtedly be known as the Governor of the under-dog, of the forgotten man, woman and child. Better still, he visioned the time when

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in all of this wide land there would be no under-dog, no forgotten men and women, no neglected and under-privileged children.

The measures which Governor Olson sponsored and approved attest this heart-urge of the man. They include such laws as a State net income tax, a chain-store tax, minimum hours and wages for State highway workers, an old age pension plan, the homestead preferential act, and a mortgage moratorium law. He recommended, but did not obtain, legislation for higher taxes on concentrated wealth and utilities, and an unemployment insurance plan.

These and other measures for which Governor Floyd Olson fought prove him to have been a statesman-commoner. He caught the vision of a new day and was prophetic in his faith and hope. The career of Floyd Olson is replete with leadership and inspiration. His victory over poverty has significance for youth, and his valor before death exalts manhood and courage.

November 13th was Governor Olson's natal day. That the people of Minnesota may draw closer to their great Governor; that his memory and influence may be perpetuated in the Commonwealth, I, Hjalmar Petersen, Governor of Minnesota, do designate

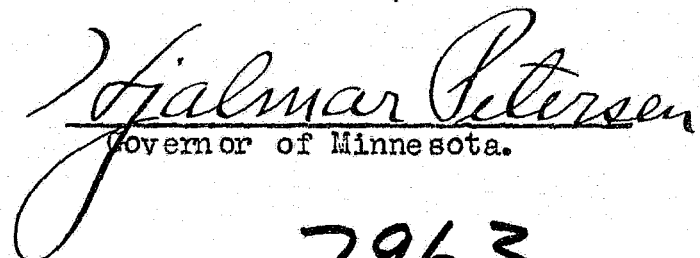
Friday, November 13th

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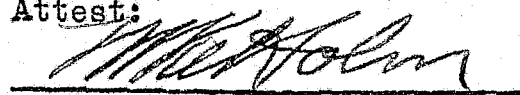
FLOYD B. OLSON DAY

May it be appropriately and thoughtfully observed in the schools, places of worship and homes throughout the State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Minnesota, this 12th day of November, 1936.


Governor of Minnesota.

Attest:


Secretary of State.

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