

January 12, 1995

His words sum up the need for us to continue changing the focus of government in the 1990s toward government that upholds the good of the people, away from government for its own sake. The name of that innovative statesman is President James Madison. The words appear in 1788 in the Federalist Papers, in this case, a letter to the people of New York urging them to support changes in government, changes that would restore a balance of power between state and federal governments of that day for the good of the people, changes that would follow the original intent of the United States Constitution. Even with the passing of more than 200 years, the goals of American government have not changed. However, we're once again facing an imbalance in governmental power. You've heard me say over and over again we must change the face of government. Now I'm the first to admit that change is not always easy. You don't have to look past my tie collection to see that I'm not a rebel. But when change is positive for a good cause, when it's critical to our well-being, we must admit the need for change and have the courage to follow through. President Andrew Jackson, in 1829, received a letter from then-Governor Martin Van Buren of New York, which read as follows. "The canal system of this country is being threatened by the spread of a new form of transportation known as railroads." Governor Van Buren was afraid that railroad carriages pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour were endangering and frightening citizens, setting fire to crops and jeopardizing the security of the nation. Not only that, he feared that many canal workers would lose their jobs. In hindsight, those views were narrow. It was a good decision to go ahead with the railroad. Americans had the courage to recognize the need for that change and proceed with confidence. Today we also must have courage for change, change in the way we govern, then we must proceed with confidence. As always, when we begin a new legislative session, we face many challenges. After decades of government set in its ways, our two biggest challenges still are government inefficiency and inflexible regulation. Let's put it this way, government has become disorderly and demanding. Disorderly government means Washington and the states duplicating one another's efforts. We're two agencies performing the same function. Disorderly means running the state for the sake of government, not for the sake of the people. It means ineffective use of our resources. Disorderly government is inefficient government. We've begun, over the past four years, to reduce duplication, remove unnecessary functions and use resources better. We will continue our fight for more efficient government. Demanding