

Date : 3/30/2020 3:41:18 PM
From : "Topousis, Thomas A"
To : "Jamie Malanowski"
Subject : RE: preface

Hang on, I was just about to send you a few edits and suggestions to the earlier version. I will add them to your latest

From: Jamie Malanowski <Jamie.Malanowski@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Topousis, Thomas A <ttopousis@panynj.gov>
Subject: Re: preface

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How's this? Some new lines in the middle, and the end, in bold.

PREFACE

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This would be my 10th such address, and I have witnessed close to twenty others. But for me, it is a ritual that never grows old. The State of the State address takes place the first day of the year that the legislature is in session. For those of us in government, is opening day, the start of the season, a moment when everything is possible. Delivering a State of the State address is an annual privilege that only the fifty state governors can experience. You get to stand before the assembled members of the cabinet, the legislature, and the judiciary, along with hundreds of other people who seek the help of government, and share with them your plans. *Here is where we are. There is where we need to go. This is how we're going to get there.*

During my first nine years, we created a record of accomplishments across a wide range of issues. We enacted a Marriage Equality law that helped lead to the Supreme Court's landmark decision. We raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, created the country's most far-reaching Paid Family Leave program, made it possible for students from middle class and working class families to get a free college education, and passed the nation's toughest gun control law. Every year we invested more money in education than any other state, while at the same time embarking upon a \$1.5 billion infrastructure program that was remaking the state's bridges, airports, and rail system. And we did this while capping the rate of spending, and lowering taxes for every person in the state.

While proud of this record, I knew we had more work before us. I had asked the people of my state for a third term; I knew I needed to justify the faith they showed in me when they reelected me. President Kennedy once said that the role of an executive in a democracy is to lay before the public the unfinished business of that society, and the plans we had created for 2020 were among the most exciting we had yet devised. To fight climate change, we were proposing an ambitious \$3 billion bond act to provide funds for resiliency and restoration projects throughout the state. To stake New York State's claim to the economy of tomorrow, we were investing heavily in Electric Vehicles, creating the physical and economic infrastructure that will sustain our workers in the coming decades. And to make sure the law kept pace with the will of the people, we were going to keep reforming our criminal justice system, improve our educational funding formula, attack homelessness, enact a far-reaching Equal Rights Amendment to our state constitution, and much, much more.

I discussed all of these plans in the speech. But as much as any specific ideas, the State of the State address afforded me a platform to talk about something that had been on my mind throughout 2019. There was a growing a split between the moderate and progressive wings of my party. One group wanted to move quickly, with large, far-reaching programs to attack problems. Others favored more methodical approaches. To me, this seemed to be a false dichotomy, and one that threatened to prove counterproductive and self-defeating.

To me, the answer was simple: the job of government is to help people. We are not a debating society; our job is not to devise elegant plans that end up sitting in filing cabinets because they can't get passed. That's not being progressive; how can you call yourself progressive if you don't make progress? Our job is to make a difference, a real difference in people's lives.

President Ronald Reagan once had a line that he could always rely on to get a laugh: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help." Frankly I never saw the humor. **Two months earlier, I stood on the banks of a creek in Schoharie County as a flash flood enveloped a house and threatened to carry off the house and the family trapped inside. Undaunted, rescue workers braved the currents and brought the family to safety. I have seen the face of a homeless child in Brooklyn whose family was moving into their first home. I have seen the faces of young people in Yonkers earning the first diplomas their family had ever seen. I have seen the faces of construction workers in Buffalo when they learned that the state was redeveloping the city's declining downtown. I have seen craft brewers in the Finger Lakes when they learned that we were repealing antiquated liquor laws that were stifling their growth. Don't tell me what people think when the government comes to help.**

I know the shortcomings of government. I know what happens when leaders don't lead. But put the criticism where it belongs. I have devoted my life to public service. My father served as Governor of New York for twelve years. I have been blessed to work with hundreds of dedicated, conscientious women and men of both parties, in New York and Washington, who are driven by the thought of serving the public. I had many of them in mind as I spoke.

“Progressive government makes progress,” I said that day. “It is competent, it is purposeful, it is effective and efficient: it delivers results for those aggrieved and wanting.”

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There was a lot we wanted to do, and a lot we would have to contend with.

Meanwhile, a half a world away, in Wuhan province in China, a mysterious pneumonia was afflicting people. The World Health Organization and Chinese authorities said that they believed a new coronavirus — from the family that produced SARS and MERS — may be the cause. Already 59 people had been infected.

From: Topousis, Thomas A <ttopousis@panynj.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Jamie Malanowski
Subject: RE: preface

Perhaps a little more ominous. Or predictive of the oncoming juggernaut. Not a lot. Just a bit more of a tease of the future.

From: Jamie Malanowski <Jamie.Malanowski@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Topousis, Thomas A <ttopousis@panynj.gov>
Subject: Re: preface

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I think just a little more at the end to build out the sense of the oncoming train that would change everything.

Do you mean, make that sentence about China a little longer and more ominous?

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Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:01 PM
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Subject: preface

how does this strike you?

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Date : 3/30/2020 3:50:03 PM
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