ONCE IN TWO YEARS, the publication of the Wisconsin Blue Book brings to
the citizens of this State a clear picture of the organization, scope,
and responsibilities of their state Government. This year, that report
is especially necessary in as much as the Executive Branch of Wisconsin
State Government in 1967 underwent a complete modernization.

THIS ACHIEVEMENT is all the more significant because Wisconsin was able
to accomplish the modernization by voluntary means. A committee studied
the needs for reorganization and submitted its recommendations to the
Legislature. The Legislature made some refinements and I, as your Gover-
nor, was privileged to sign the Reorganization Act into law. All this
was achieved without the compulsion of a restrictively revised State
Constitution placing the state into a 20-department strait jacket, as
has been the case so often in other States. Our reorganized Executive
Branch, and the events leading up to the modernization, are described in
detail beginning on page 365 of this Blue Book, but I do want to take
this opportunity to once more express the gratitude of the citizens of
Wisconsin to Mr. William R. Kellett, the chairman of the Reorganization
Committee, whose group so ably set the stage making modernization pos-
sible.

MODERNIZATION OF GOVERNMENT is a continuing process in Wisconsin. Wis-
consin is fortunate to have one of the most concise State Constitutions
in the Nation. Adopted in 1848, it continues to serve us well mainly --
as is shown by the table beginning on page 318 -- because an enlightened
citizenry has approved necessary amendments right along. Most recently
in the April 1968 election (see "Addenda") four such amendments were
ratified by the voters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT is the next area in which this state is seeking ways to
achieve modernization. But, Wisconsin by tradition has avoided moderni-
zeation for the sake of change -- whenever fundamental changes have been
made in this State, they were made on the basis of careful deliberation
and on the basis of an informed understanding of all the facts involved.
For this reason, I am especially pleased to see that the feature article
of this edition of the Wisconsin Blue Book is devoted to "The Local Gov-
ernment System of Wisconsin". Written by Professor James R. Donoghue,
the Director of the Institute for Governmental Affairs at the University
of Wisconsin -- a man whose record of public service extends over many years of participation in studies that have resulted in significant improvements of Wisconsin Government -- this 206-page feature article should be a welcome and timely source of information toward a better understanding of Wisconsin local government and the problems which this system faces in the final one-third of the twentieth century.

IT IS MY HOPE, also, that any citizen into whose hands this volume may come will spend some reflective minutes perusing the statistical section of the Wisconsin Blue Book. True, we are still "America's Dairyland" and lead the Nation in many other aspects of agricultural production as well, but in 1968 Wisconsin has also become one of the leading industrial states in this country. As a growing state Wisconsin, 170 years after achieving statehood, still has some growing pains -- problems such as pollution or highway safety or urban congestion.

HEEDING ITS MOTTO, "FORWARD", Wisconsin is continually devising solutions to these problems as they arise. Today, tomorrow and tomorrow, Wisconsin is a good place to work, to live and to play, and is becoming better with every generation.

WE LIKE IT HERE.