Form follows function: that is what modern architects say, and it is also true of state government in Wisconsin. If the ideals of good government have approached perfection in our state — a state of pioneering legislation and scrupulously clean public administration — it is, in part, because we have adopted a form of governing which has lent itself to progressive ideas.

In this *Blue Book*, Dr. H. Rupert Theobald, chief of the Wisconsin State Legislative Reference Bureau, offers us a comprehensive guide to the rules and procedures of governing which have helped to make Wisconsin the forward-looking state that it is. One could not ask for a steadier or more helpful guide than Dr. Theobald, and his essay may be considered a classic of its kind.

But it is also timely. Wisconsin now faces a crucial period of change. Its competition and opportunities have become global. The pressures on the state to excel in education and expand in opportunity have never been more compelling. Wisconsin must change today to meet the challenge of tomorrow.

My administration has restored Wisconsin’s solvency, improved the tax climate and challenged “business as usual” in a host of ways. It has also respected the dignity of the individual, fought poverty and discrimination, rewritten the economic rules of the health care industry and crafted the most far-reaching reform of the personal income tax since its inception here in 1911.

We have known the rules of government, and the rules have made us free to do the right and timely thing for Wisconsin. I hope all who read this *Blue Book* will come away with a clear sense of how form, function and freedom interact for the betterment of all our people.

Sincerely,

Anthony S. Earl
GOVERNOR