July 1997

Dear Readers:

We live at a remarkable time in Wisconsin’s history. Our state serves as a model for the nation across a broad range of program areas, including welfare reform, education and environmental protection. We continue to enjoy unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. All of us can take pride in the work we have done to make Wisconsin the envy of the nation.

Our success during the past decade, however, has been built on the foundation that was laid by the men and women who labored before us during our state’s great 150-year history. We must always be mindful of their contributions to our success.

Wisconsin’s sesquicentennial year – 1998 – will give each of us the chance to recognize those who, since 1848, have contributed to Wisconsin’s many achievements. I hope that all Wisconsinites will take part during 1998 in the many activities that are being planned at the local and state levels to celebrate our history and heritage.

The 1997-98 State of Wisconsin Blue Book serves as an outstanding guide for our sesquicentennial commemoration, detailing Wisconsin’s impressive record of innovation in government and public policy, welfare reform, education, commerce, agriculture and conservation. The book also includes a special section on the role of local government, highlighting its development during the state’s history.

This Blue Book helps us to better understand Wisconsin’s rich history and the men and women who contributed to it. As we examine the progress of our state, we also see clearly the many contributions that Wisconsin has made to our great country. As Wisconsin has developed, we have helped to shape America.

Sincerely,

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

Room 115 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, Wisconsin 53707  •  (608) 266-1212  •  FAX (608) 267-8983