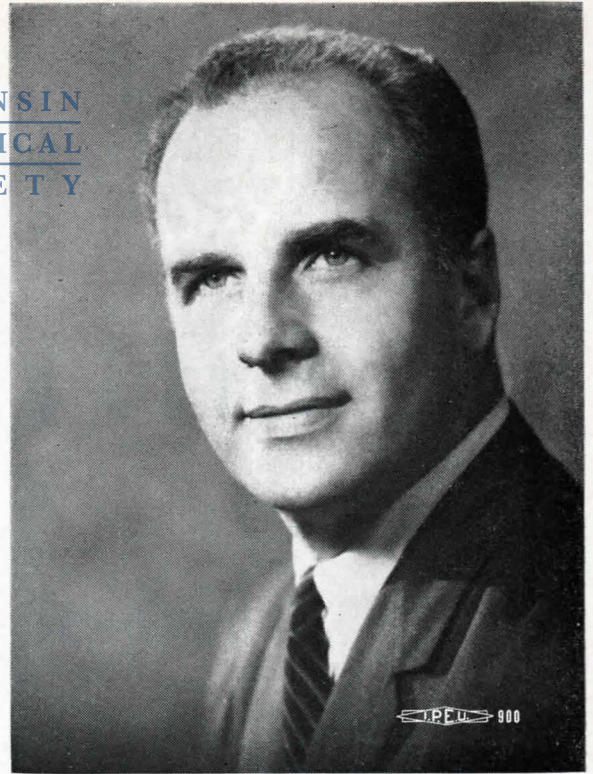




WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# GAYLORD NELSON

Governor of Wisconsin



To my fellow delegates:

The 1959 Wisconsin Democratic Convention meets at a new high point in the recent history of our state party.

In Washington, we now have five Democratic Congressmen, and the names of Zablocki, Kastenmeier, Johnson, Flynn and Reuss are constantly in the news, for these men are among the most steadfast and courageous liberals in the U. S. House of Representatives. In the U. S. Senate, we have Bill Proxmire, and I defy anyone to match the record of vigor and imagination Bill has made in the Senate in two years.

Here in Wisconsin, we have won control of the Assembly, and of four out of five offices in the statehouse. We have been in power for less than 11 months, but I for one believe that we have already made great strides toward justifying the trust the voters placed in us just one year ago.

We have pushed through our platform pledges to reorganize the Wisconsin court system, to repeal the Catlin Act, to ban secrecy in government, to promote slum clearance and to encourage economic growth in northern Wisconsin.

We have totally revamped our state conservation program, including a \$1 million increase for state parks, as well as entirely new programs for providing public access to lakes and streams and for classifying our lakes to assure the best use by all.

We have carried out the greatest shake-up in state government since the days of "Old Bob" La Follette, including the establishment of two new state departments — Administration and Resource Development — that between them pull together all the state activities

previously carried out in bits and pieces by no less than 17 scattered agencies.

We have made Wisconsin the first state in the nation to ban racial and religious discrimination in companies receiving state contracts.

We have regulated billboards on the interstate highway system to preserve Wisconsin's scenic beauty.

We have made an additional \$3,600,000 available to counties for veterans housing loans.

We have imposed state controls on Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Surgical care plans.

We have protected the public against sudden termination of private accident and health policies.

We have established state control over standards of care in county mental hospitals.

We have obtained an additional \$1,600,000 a year for the state's disabled.

We have adopted a more liberal unemployment compensation law, extending periods of coverage and setting maximum benefits at 52½% of average weekly wages.

We have relieved local property taxpayers of \$17,500,000 by increasing the state's share of local school aide from 22% to more than 26%.

But there is more — much more — to be done. There are problems of state loans for college students, of legal borrowing for state buildings and highways, of massive tax revision based on ability to pay, of "self-help" marketing legislation for the farmer, of urban development — to name only a few. These problems must be solved. And if we all work together for the greater good of Wisconsin, they will be solved.

That is our cause. That is the purpose for which we are gathered in Milwaukee today.

GAYLORD A. NELSON  
Governor of Wisconsin