

INAUGURAL MESSAGE

JOHN H. CHAFEE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS JANUARY SESSION, 1965
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1965

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS

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LEGISLATION IN THE AREA OF EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES, HOWEVER, IS GREATLY NEEDED. THIS REQUIRES ACTION ON THE PART OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD NOT DELAY ANY LONGER. I SHALL AGAIN SUBMIT TO YOU LEGISLATION TO INSURE EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL OUR CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND. SURELY, THE EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR HAVE PROVEN BEYOND QUESTION THAT SUCH LEGISLATION - A VITAL PART OF OUR CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM - IS LONG OVERDUE. THE CLIMATE IS FAVORABLE. THE TIME IS NOW. WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR BEYOND QUESTION TO THE NEGRO COMMUNITY THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE ETHICAL AND MORAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AND ARE PREPARED TO ACT.