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**IN 100 DAYS, I HAVE BECOME ROCK SOLID ON THE CORE BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES...AND I HAVE SEEN THEM WORKING FOR MINNESOTANS.**

I have put my foot down about never again struggling to return money to taxpayers, such as happened with this \$1 billion rebate. From now on, every biennium, it's time to settle up. This comes from my meetings with legislative leaders a number of times.

I also have my foot down about not digging too deep with tax relief if it doesn't hold up over FOUR years. This comes from my meetings with economists and business leaders, and Sen. Roger Moe, who remembers the pain of 1981 very, very well.

LEADING WITH STATED BELIEFS AND BUDGET PRINCIPLES

- A fresh vision of an accountable, responsive government started with efforts in January to achieve:
  - Quality Cabinet Appointments and a Working Cabinet (retreat in January, monthly meetings and more since)
  - Working with the Minnesota Councils of Color (individual meetings and an April 24 strategy retreat)
  - Rethinking how state government does its job:
    - Separating Executive from Legislative.
    - Not dictating how Judiciary works.
    - Understanding the Constitution and fulfilling the promises for education, public safety and transportation.
    - No more unfunded mandates on locals.
  - Learning how to say “no” even when it’s not popular by not being beholden to special interests (a budget that’s a ceiling; balanced for FOUR years, not two)
  - Not measuring success by how many laws or rules are passed...even though that’s the way it’s been.
  - Understanding that real, meaningful change comes from working together with state employees to tear down the “silos” (merging water quality; blending OT into Administration; solving the special education rift between CFL and DHS; addressing the Ag problems).
  - Daring to suggest in the budget dramatic new technology for state government that will improve the way Minnesotans get services, and eventually change the way government works (Revenue; Dept of Public Safety)



- Setting a vision that works for much longer than the next election cycle (not promising more in a tax cut than can be sustained over time).
- **LEADERSHIP TO ENCOURAGE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:**
  - In these first 100 days, nothing has provoked more conversation and debate than my tough talk about people taking responsibility for their own personal decisions:
    - Young people who want higher education, and should rightfully pay for their share.
    - Parents who put their children FIRST, send them to school prepared for learning, and don't expect schools to raise them.
    - Finding ways to help seniors stay in their homes as long as possible.
  - Journalists are not skilled at covering issues like this. The media loves the babyface/heel game, with individuals always the victim and some institution playing the heel. No more.
  - Taxpayers want tax cuts; businesses want tax cuts; the public wants action on K-12 investments, transportation, and other big ticket items.
  - Something needs to give, or we will be spending 80 cents on the dollar for taxes to take care of everybody who thinks they need help to live.
  - The hallmark of this first 100 days has been the discomfort of starting this discussion in an honest way with straight talk and common sense.
  - Every day, there are meetings with people who truly understand that it's time for a new approach.

The TOBACCO MONEY allows us to do major things with no new taxes for Minnesota Families trying to become self-sufficient; medical research; and the local public health network.

- **GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED AGAIN:**
  - Schedule has been filled with individuals, families, groups and communities – no special interests.
  - Encouraging participation through boards and commissions.
  - Focus on young people – Y2K will involve a surprise.
  - The State of the State Address focused on people who inspire others through their own self-sufficiency and leadership. They Make a Difference.



- Promoting participation at all levels of government – wherever government is making a decision, people should be there early and stay late.

It's been 100 days of speeches to: MINNESOTA'S TOURISM CONFERENCE; SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION; MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (if you like this approach, we can give him a list to hand out at interviews).

It's been a sharp learning curve about things you just don't think about: extraditions; bill signing ceremonies; proclamations; that the Reception Room doesn't belong to the office; an office with a security card lock; about finding one short afternoon to just drive a car again...alone.

There are great perques: Jack Nicholson and Sean Penn with the Film Board; The Czech President soon to arrive and requesting a rock and roll concert; the little children who come to the Capitol and drop in to see the Governor; going back to my high school to give the first speech as Governor; talking with veterans' groups; having my old SEAL team and Mother Moy attend the Inaugural.

There are concerns: the well-being of the First Lady; the bitter partisanship of the legislature; the refusal of the media to look hard at the role it plays in shaping the agenda; the tendency of groups to come to the Capitol looking for a headline instead of a discussion.