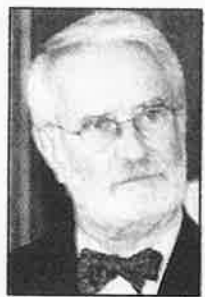


for political reforms; and the role of government is to

in the state of Wisconsin and urge all citizens to celebrate and honor his legacy.

Tony Earl



I was extraordinarily fortunate to be able to work with a variety of talented people from the political science department, the economics department and, most appropriately, the La Follette School of Public Affairs to achieve that end. Professors like Don Nichols, Dennis Dresang, Bob Haveman and John Witte, along with President Katharine Lyall, to name a very few, were extraordinarily helpful to me and my administration in the difficult years of the early 1980s. They helped

shape plans to balance the state's books; to encourage job creation in new fields; to reform our personnel practices; and to make the most of the resources that the University of Wisconsin has available for state government. It is unlikely that Wisconsin will see the likes of Bob La Follette again any time soon. However, his legacy can be put to work for the betterment of all the citizens of Wisconsin by maintaining and nourishing the relationship between state government and our great university.

on



La Follette's bar egrin with his convictions, a s expressing growing cynicism with nostalgia for the rage, and a model for innovation office, even as he dug his n under the most intense ment continue to inform aigns in Wisconsin. ette created, the nic development initiative I ate and nonprofit sectors h provided by the e System. We see evolving the costly vestiges of gen- erican democratic struc- izens in their responsibility

Curt Meine



The message, if your ears are at all cocked toward politics these days, is clear. Anger, arrogance, corruption, willful ignorance, demonization of one's opponent, confinement to chasms of ideology, labels over substance, self-interest and loyalty to party above all: These are the hallmarks of our contemporary civic conversation. This is now politics "as usual." Lately I have become acutely aware of my own peculiar take on these trends. I am irrationally optimistic and my optimism seems to get only more irrational each day. Of course, no one wants to think of oneself as delusional. I haven't yet sought counseling, but I have tried to understand the basis of my contrary attitude. My best guess is that it somehow involves living in Wisconsin. It could be something in the water, maybe in the milk, more likely in the beer. But mostly, I think, it's something in the history. At a time when American society's commitment to the common good is rapidly eroding, we in Wisconsin have a leg up on the rest of the country: We live in the land of La Follette. "Fighting Bob" was and is the mascot of Wisconsin's homegrown brand of progressivism. Yet his achievements were not just the product of his own diligent passion for educational opportunity and clean government, fairness and economic justice, informed policy and accountability. Rather, his leadership reflected - in fact, required - a commitment by Wisconsin's people, over generations, across party lines, in rural communities and cities alike, to these values. It was a public commitment that La Follette worked prodigiously to build, and that sustained him through his own often tumultuous political odyssey. I am irrationally optimistic because, in Wisconsin, we can stand on precedent. American democracy requires constant adaptation and rejuvenation. A century ago that creative political energy surged through the citizens of Wisconsin, and we changed the way Americans govern themselves. We can - if we really want to - do it again.

Chronon



te in 1901. Although the ducted a national search ement, they delayed long the governor to make one ointments to the board and quietly e eventual selection of UW Professor

Van Hise's death in 1918, but Birge's reluctance for the presidency and his age made it clear his role would be that of a caretaker. By 1923 the La Follette family had settled on a successor and began putting pressure on Gov. John Blaine and their allies among the

Tommy Thompson

Wisconsin liberals like to call themselves 'progressives.' Yet the Progressive