

1874: Garland Inaugural Address

<p>Images of Arkansas immediately following Reconstruction.</p> <p>Photograph of Augustus Hill Garland.</p> <p>Cut to a crowd gathered in front of the State House. Garland is delivering his inaugural address from the front steps.</p> <p>The camera mainly stays on Garland, cutting occasionally to a longer shot. Interspersed are reaction shots of the crowd.</p>	<p>Narrator Voice Over: Arkansas soon rewrote its constitution after Reconstruction and held new elections. The Democratic Party offered the nomination to Baxter. He declined and was replaced as governor by Augustus Hill Garland. Garland recognized that Arkansas needed Northern capital if it was to recover from the Civil War and repay the debt amassed during Reconstruction. He also realized that to attract the Yankee dollar, racial and political harmony were essential.</p> <p>Garland: It would be unnatural if we did not rejoice at our great victory in favor of a government of the state by the people....But while we do congratulate ourselves..., we must use the victory prudently and wisely, and show the world we are worthy of it. Let no animosity mar its beauty — let no bitter memories of other days spoil its charms or lessen its benefits. Let us forget the past, dwelling upon it only so far as it may serve to warn us against the evils and make and enforce a government for all alike, with its benefits and its burdens.</p> <p>We want no strife, no turmoil, but we want and must have peace and order, and to this end the laws should and must be enforced rigidly, but no man living under them should be unjustly or illegally deprived of one iota of his rights; and let no man be put in fear or injured, denied any rights on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, or on account of former residence, or difference of political opinion.</p>
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