REMARKS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION
January 31, 1992

Good afternoon and welcome!

We are here this afternoon to celebrate the birthday of a
great man and a great spirit—the Reverend Martin Luther King
Jr.—a man whose courage, compassion and vision of a better
world are as stirring today as they were during his lifetime.

But perhaps more important than commemorating the
man, we are gathered this afternoon to commemorate the
dream—a dream of equality, of unity, of peace—a dream toward
which we have made great strides, but a dream that, sadly, still
eludes us.

And what does this dream mean for us—for Colorado
State University today, on January 31st, 1992? We stand here, a
year away from war, and only God knows how far we are from a
Wellington Webb, mayor of the city of Denver, is also a man of
global and lasting peace. We stand here, filled with the fire of
hope. We stand here, united in our belief that people of all
races and creeds can gather, shoulder to shoulder, in a peaceful
celebration of life and hope and brotherhood.
This is, after all, a university, a place where ideas are tested, where prejudices are challenged, where eyes are opened. There is no better place than this, our own university community, to renew our commitment to the dream, and to challenge others to dream along with us. Let us begin today, at the start of this semester, and with spring just over the horizon, to spread our message of peace and compassion across this campus. Let each of us do what he or she can to help others heal, to dispel hatred, to soothe fear. Let us begin, today, to infuse new life into Dr. King's dream for the sake of our university, as well as ourselves.

And it is fitting on this special day that we welcome the man I would like to introduce to you now. The Honorable Wellington Webb, mayor of the city of Denver, is also a man of vision and commitment, a man who believes so strongly in democracy that he defended the rights of the Ku Klux Klan—a group he finds repugnant—to speak and to assemble freely. I
believe such fairness says a great deal about the kind of person, and the kind of leader, Wellington Webb is.

He is a man of deeply held values, a man who speaks of such notions as freedom, democracy and fairplay with conviction that can only come from the heart. On January 20th, he told the peaceful citizens of Denver who marched in honor of King’s memory, "You have proven to America that greatness is defined by its people."

Throughout his campaign, and during his first year in office, it has become apparent that Mayor Webb clearly and dearly loves humanity and is willing to work and fight for the rights of people as citizens.

And so it is a pleasure to welcome Mayor Webb here, to have him be a part of these solemn and important ceremonies. Won’t you please join me in extending our warmest greetings to the Mayor of Denver, the Honorable Wellington Webb!