

THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF FLORIDA

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## P R E F A C E

There was a time, a few generations ago, when government little intruded itself upon the affairs of men. Taxes, while much complained of, consumed an insignificant part of the income of the people. Legislation was largely negative in nature, detailing for the citizen those limited things which he might not do with impunity. Administrative activities followed the same pattern, providing the enforcement agencies required to assure the observance of legislated prohibitions.

Then came a revolution! The increasing complexity of the social order; the insecurity of livelihoods dependent upon wages rather than upon the eternal soil; the increased opportunities provided by technological and scientific advances for community, state and national action; the national involvement with international affairs - these and related factors brought government to a point where it consumed thirty-six percent of the national income, and threatened to consume more; fostered the passage of legislation invading the most sacrosanct personal relationships; and created a bureaucracy that dominates all economic and legal, and most social, relationships.

The governments of Florida are a vital part of that total picture. Clearly understood and wisely used, they become instruments of progress. Ignored, they can and will quickly become instruments of oppression.

This book is written with the hope that it will add in some small degree to the ability of the people of Florida to achieve as good government as they deserve.

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