

Caldwell Co
Nov. 1, 1972

I always welcome election time and the rallies and get-togethers like this one tonight which are so much a part of political campaigns in North Carolina. They give us a chance to renew old friendships and experience again the feeling of unity which participation in affairs of the Democratic Party creates. Events such as this one provide an opportunity to set new goals, draw new plans and dedicate ourselves to greater service in the future.

And equally important they provide us with an opportunity to review the progress we have made and the service rendered by the Democratic Party.

This is always a pleasure for me because as I have said time and time again, I believe in the principles of the Democratic Party and I believe in the things we have been doing for the people of this State and Nation. I have never hesitated to travel this State over and to take to the stump in support of that Party and I'm glad to be doing it again in 1972.

~~I must confess though that this year is especially thrilling for me.~~ In the past I have gone back and reviewed the good work done by North Carolina Democrats and pointed with pride to their accomplishments.

Democratic leadership and the progress of our State are—in a very real way—one and the same. North Carolinians are heirs to a long history of good government, enlightened leadership, and sustained progress and the Democratic Party has made it so.

So why shouldn't we look with pride to the achievements in the field of education of Democratic governors — Vance, Aycock, Morrison, Bickett, Hoey, Scott, Umstead and Sanford. Why shouldn't we look with pride to our fine system of community colleges and technical institutes; our state system of higher education facilities unsurpassed by any state in this nation; our good public schools and now even a budding kindergarten system for our children.

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What State in this nation can boast of a better record in highway construction than North Carolina. What State can come close to matching the accomplishments of Governors Bickett, Morrison and Kerr Scott - Democratic Governors - who pushed North Carolina to the forefront in providing highways for its people.

North Carolina has 74,368 miles in its state highway system, more than any other State and more than the States of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina combined. This includes 10 per cent of all the State maintained paved roads in America which, incidentally, I am told we maintain with only 4 per cent of the ~~state's~~ *state's* combined budget.

~~budget~~ . What other State can point to this kind of record in roadbuilding and highway maintenance? Not a one.

Luther Hodges, a great Democratic Governor in the late fifties, set North Carolina on the road to industrial development in a way that has made this State the envy of the nation. People flock to North Carolina from all over the world to visit our Research Triangle and thousands have come to the Tar Heel State to make their homes and *use* their skills in this research center. Again, we're the envy of this nation and because of the foresight and vision of Luther Hodges, a Democratic Governor.

~~North Carolina is a great agricultural State.~~

An agricultural product, tobacco, is king here and our State Department of Agriculture year after year and administration after *Democratic Administration* ~~administration~~ *continues* to merit the confidence of our farmers. We are a great agricultural state because Governor Morrison and his successors - democratic governors - helped our people see the value of diversification on our farms long before persons in other parts of our nation had recognized the importance of diversification.

We are now experiencing a crisis in mental health care in North Carolina. It is evident that it is again time to surge ahead as we did during the administration of Governor Gregg Cherry a Democratic Governor. It is time to continue the Democratic tradition of compassion for the mentally ill and I believe that Skipper Bowles is dedicated to doing just that. I hope that in years to come, when we mention Gregg Cherry and his work in mental health care, we can also add Skipper Bowles to that roll call. I am sure we will.

North Carolina is known throughout this nation for its achievements in sound fiscal government. Governors Morrison, McLean, Gardner, Ehringhaus and Sanford certainly can be thanked for this. And I need not tell this group that there is no finer State Treasurer in this country than North Carolina's Edwin Gill a great Democrat and in every sense of the word a faithful steward of our public funds.

Talk about the accomplishments of our Party is not a study in ancient history, as some would have us believe. Look to the positive accomplishments of the last four years. The present administration has had added to the law books in this State legislation designed to protect our environment, which should insure that our children have clean air to breathe, pure water and surroundings which enhance the quality of life.

We've revamped our water and air laws. We've passed a Coastal Protection and Beach Erosions Act, a far-reaching pesticide act and an act regulating the mining of our ^{90 and} *agriculture* natural resources. Our gubernatorial candidate himself led the way in many of these efforts and authored the Environmental Bill of Rights which North Carolinians are so proud of today.

I said a while ago that I am always glad to take to the campaign trail for the Democratic Party. I am especially glad to do this this year because in the past I've had to turn to the achievements of others to illustrate our progress. This year, after having served one term as your Attorney General, I hope that we have done some things in the Department of Justice which are in this same Democratic tradition.