

INTRODUCTION OF SARGENT SHRIVER, CANDIDATE FOR VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1972
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CAROLINA -- Y.D.C. SUMMER RALLY, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH,
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I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR EXTENDING TO ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER THIS EVENING. ALSO, LET ME COMMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUB FOR AGAIN BRINGING TO OUR STATE A VISITOR OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE IN DEMOCRATIC PARTY CIRCLES. THIS IS A PART OF THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE YOU HAVE RENDERED TO OUR PARTY AND ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA, I THANK YOU.

CERTAINLY NO ONE WOULD CONTEST THE STATEMENT THAT SARGENT SHRIVER IS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN OUR NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS. AS WE ALL KNOW, HIS MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS BEGAN DURING THE KENNEDY ERA. HE DID YOEMAN SERVICE IN THAT 1960 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND STUMPED THE NATION FOR HIS FRIEND AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY.

AFTER THAT SUCCESSFUL ELECTION, PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEGAN TO PUT TOGETHER THE TEAM WHICH WOULD LEAD THIS COUNTRY INTO THE '60's. HE TURNED TO SARGENT SHRIVER FOR A MOST IMPORTANT JOB--THAT OF CREATING AND DIRECTING THE PEACE CORP. UNDER HIS DIRECTION THAT GROUP OF YOUNG IDEALISTIC VOLUNTEERS IN FACT GAVE "FRESH PERSONAL MEANING TO OUR DIPLOMACY" OF THE '60's. THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP "AN AVENUE WAS PROVIDED BY WHICH AMERICANS COULD SERVE THEIR COUNTRY AND THE CAUSE OF

WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSIST OTHER NATIONS TOWARD THEIR LEGITIMATE GOALS OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY". I KNOW OF NO ONE SINGLE THING WHICH WAS MORE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE KENNEDY YEARS THAN THIS PEACE CORP PROGRAM.

HIS SERVICE DID NOT END WITH THE KENNEDY YEARS. SARGENT SHRIVER VERY GRACIOUSLY CONSENTED TO SERVE AS A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON AND THEN ACCEPTED THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. IN REMARKS AT THE SWEARING IN OF OUR SPEAKER AS DIRECTOR, PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAID THAT IN SARGENT SHRIVER HE HAD "SELECTED THE BEST EQUIPPED (MAN) BY PERSONALITY, BY TRAINING, BY HEAD AND HEART AND HEELS. ... (H)E IS THE KIND OF A PERSON THAT GOES WHERE HIS PRESIDENT LEADS HIM BECAUSE HE LOVES HIS COUNTRY THAT MUCH."

LYNDON JOHNSON'S FAITH IN SARGENT SHRIVER WAS WELL FOUNDED BECAUSE HE DID A COMMENDABLE JOB OF DIRECTING AN EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL AGENCY AND PROGRAM.

AFTER FOUR YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF O.E.O., SARGENT SHRIVER AGAIN ANSWERED THE CALL TO PUBLIC SERVICE BY ACCEPTING AN APPOINTMENT TO SERVE AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. IN 1970 HE RESIGNED HIS AMBASSADORSHIP AND RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME A SENIOR PARTNER IN A VERY PRESTIGIOUS NEW YORK LAW FIRM.

I NEED NOT REMIND THIS GROUP OF NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATS THAT IT WAS SARGENT SHRIVER WHO IN SPITE OF INDICATIONS THAT 1972 WOULD BE A ROUGH YEAR FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACCEPTED WITH HIS USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND OPTIMISM THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS A HARD CAMPAIGNER AND SURELY AN ASSET TO THE TICKET. HE STOOD TALL IN DEFEAT AND WAS A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO IN THE VERY DARK TIMES FOLLOWING THE ELECTION LAST FALL PERHAPS FELT THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD BEEN DEALT A BLOW FROM WHICH IT COULD NOT RECOVER.

IN MY OPINION, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL RISE AGAIN WITH THE HELP OF DEDICATED NATIONAL LEADERS SUCH AS SARGENT SHRIVER.

I COULD GO ON FOR A LONG TIME RECOUNTING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN. I COULD TELL YOU OF HIS MILITARY CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, OR HIS SERVICE TO VARIOUS FOUNDATIONS AND CHARITIES, AND OF THE RECOGNITION HE HAS RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR HIS SERVICE TO HUMANITY.

BUT, LET ME CONCLUDE BY SAYING THIS. SARGENT SHRIVER BEGAN HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY IN AN EXCITING ERA, THE KENNEDY YEARS, AND SINCE THAT TIME HAS SHARED THE SPOT-LIGHT WITH SOME OF THE MOST COLORFUL PEOPLE OF OUR TIMES. HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THESE UNITED STATES AND

HIS SERVICE TO HUMANITY THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE PEACE CORP. ARE OUTSTANDING AND CERTAINLY WILL FIND THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD.

IN REVIEWING THE CAREER OF SARGENT SHRIVER I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT PERHAPS FORMER PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON PAID HIM THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT IN OCTOBER OF 1964 WHEN HE SPOKE OF HIS WORK DURING THE EARLY 1960'S BY SAYING, "HIS PERFORMANCE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HE MADE IN HELPING TO MAN THIS GOVERNMENT WITH MEN OF HIGH CHARACTER, DEEP CONVICTION AND GREAT PURPOSE IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE."

AS WE HEAR AND READ EACH DAY OF WATERGATE AND THE CORRUPTION WHICH APPARENTLY HAS PERVADED THE PRESENT REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION, WE BECOME EVEN MORE THANKFUL FOR MEN SUCH AS SARGENT SHRIVER WHO COULD MERIT THIS KIND OF PRAISE BY A GREAT PRESIDENT LIKE LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

MR. SHRIVER, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU WITH US TONIGHT IN NORTH CAROLINA AND IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THIS DISTINGUISHED GATHERING.