

INTRODUCTION OF
SENATOR SAM J. ERVIN, JR.

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY LUAU
ATLANTIC BEACH, N. C.
JULY 21, 1973

I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU HERE TONIGHT FOR, IN MY OPINION, THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASIONS. IT IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION BECAUSE WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER HERE AT ATLANTIC BEACH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THOSE PERSONS WHO THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE DONE YEOMEN'S WORK ON ITS BEHALF, AND MANY YOUNG PEOPLE YEARNING FOR INVOLVEMENT.

WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER HERE THE DIVERSE BRANCHES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY FAMILY TREE AND WE ARE PUTTING DOWN NEW ROOTS THIS WEEKEND THAT WILL GO SO DEEP IN THIS NORTH CAROLINA SOIL THAT IT WILL TAKE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AT LEAST ANOTHER 72 YEARS TO EVEN BEGIN TO SHAKE THEM LOOSE AGAIN.

IT IS A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ME BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF INTRODUCING TO A VERY DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE, A VERY DISTINGUISHED SENATOR.

A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH WAS PUBLISHED THIS WEEK STATED THAT I WOULD TONIGHT "STAND UP ... AND GIVE OUT FLOWING WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE SENIOR SENATOR" FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

I WISH THAT MY ORATORICAL ABILITIES WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO FULFILL THAT PREDICTION, FOR NOTHING COULD PLEASE ME MORE THAN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SAM WITH THE SORT OF ELOQUENCE, GOOD HUMOR, AND QUICK WIT THAT HAVE BECOME HIS TRADEMARK. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF THAT ABILITY, I HOPE THAT AT LEAST I WILL BE ABLE TO DO CREDIT TO A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT WHOSE TENURE OF SERVICE SPANS SOME 50 YEARS.

SAM ERVIN IS A PRODUCT OF THE ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE POLITICS OF BURKE COUNTY, IN THAT REGION OF OUR STATE WHERE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS HAVE ALWAYS HAD THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ENJOYED THEM. HE IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, A JURIST BY NATURE, AND A LEGAL SCHOLAR BY NATURAL APTITUDE AND INCLINATION. HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AND HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. ONLY ONE YEAR AFTER COMPLETING HIS FORMAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND RETURNING TO HIS HOMETOWN OF MORGANTON IN 1922 TO PRACTICE LAW, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM BURKE COUNTY. THAT ELECTION LAUNCHED HIS POLITICAL CAREER AND SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS HELD MANY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OFFICES THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN AFFORD ANY INDIVIDUAL.

HE HAS SERVED AS A COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, AS A MEMBER OF THE STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AS A RECORDER'S COURT JUDGE, A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, AND ULTIMATELY AS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT.

HE SERVED AS A UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN FOR ONE TERM AND IN A MULTITUDE OF OTHER CAPACITIES ARISING FROM HIS ELECTION TO THESE IMPORTANT STATE OFFICES.

HE SERVED WELL, AND IT WAS HIS SERVICE WHICH CAUSED GOVERNOR WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD, IN 1954, TO APPOINT HIM AS A SUCCESSOR TO UNITED STATES SENATOR CLYDE R. HOEY. THE VOTERS OF THIS STATE IN FOUR SUCCESSIVE ELECTIONS HAVE RETURNED HIM TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND HE NOW IS NORTH CAROLINA'S SENIOR SENATOR.

IT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT THAT SAM J. ERVIN, JR.'S MILITARY RECORD IS AS DISTINGUISHED AS HIS LONG POLITICAL CAREER. HE SERVED WITH THE FIRST DIVISION IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, WAS TWICE WOUNDED IN BATTLE, TWICE CITED FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION AND AWARDED MEDALS INCLUDING THE SILVER STAR AND THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

HIS SPEECHES OFTEN RING WITH A CALL TO PATRIOTISM AND HE HAS PROVED HIS OWN BY HEROIC SACRIFICES ABROAD AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE HERE AT HOME.

THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT SAM ERVIN READ AND TOOK TO HEART THE WORDS INSCRIBED ON THE GATE TO HARVARD YARD WHILE ATTENDING THAT INSTITUTION. THOSE WORDS READ:

"ENTER TO GROW IN WISDOM.

DEPART BETTER TO SERVE THY COUNTRY AND MANKIND."

HE IS DOING JUST THAT TODAY AS HE CHAIRS THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE WHICH IS PROBING WATERGATE AND THE SORDID CAMPAIGN TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE 1972 ELECTION. IF IT WERE NOT FOR HIS TENACITY, THE DEEDS OF THOSE IN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION WHO APPARENTLY WERE OVERCOME WITH AMBITION OF THE MEANEST SORT WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO LIGHT AND THE POLITICAL PROCESSES OF THIS COUNTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN SO SUBVERTED THAT, IN MY OPINION, THEY COULD NEVER AGAIN HAVE SERVED THE PEOPLE OR MERITED THEIR RESPECT.

I AM REMINDED OF THE STORY TOLD ABOUT BEN FRANKLIN WHO, AS HE WAS LEAVING CONSTITUTION HALL AFTER DRAFTING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WAS ASKED BY A YOUNG MAN WHAT HE AND THE OTHERS HAD BEEN DOING. "WE HAVE BEEN CREATING A REPUBLIC," SAID FRANKLIN, "AND IT IS NOW YOUR DUTY TO PRESERVE IT."

SAN ERVIN, WITHOUT DOUBT, IS MAKING A MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING AND PRESERVING OUR REPUBLIC AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM HIM TONIGHT.

SO IT IS WITH GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE THAT I PRESENT TO YOU THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA, THE HONORABLE SAM J. ERVIN, JR.