

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
AUGUST 8, 1974

INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN

WE MEET HERE TONIGHT AS DEMOCRATS, MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WHICH HAS HISTORICALLY KEPT FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE.

OUR SUCCESS AS A PARTY DEPENDS UPON OUR NEVER FORGETTING THAT FACT.

IF WE ASK THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THIS STATE TO TRUST THE LEADERS OF OUR PARTY AND TO ENTRUST THEM WITH POWER, THEN THEY MUST USE THAT POWER RESPONSIBLY AND, ABOVE ALL, MUST TRUST THE PEOPLE'S JUDGMENT.

OUR PARTY HAS BEEN, AND MUST CONTINUE TO BE THE PARTY WHERE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN CAN FIND A COMFORTABLE NICHE AND WHERE HIS VOICE AND HIS WISHES CAN BE HEARD.

THESE ARE NOT THE BEST OF TIMES WE LIVE IN TODAY.

THE PEOPLE ARE CYNICAL AND SUSPICIOUS.

THEY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT POLITICIANS WHO SPOUT PLATITUDES AND PROMISES.

THEY DON'T BELIEVE THE PROMISES THAT A ROSY FUTURE LIES JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

AND CAN YOU BLAME THEM?

OUR TRADITIONS, OUR HISTORY, OUR CONSTITUTION SAY THAT
AMERICA BELONGS TO ITS PEOPLE,

BUT THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT MAY NOT BE TRUE TODAY,

THEY FEEL THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS BEING RUN FOR THE PRIVILEGED
FEW RATHER THAN FOR THE MANY -- AND THEY HAVE CAUSE TO BELIEVE
THIS,

AS DEMOCRATS, WE MUST WORK TO REMOVE THESE DOUBTS AND
RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS,

WE ALL KNOW THAT THIS CAN'T BE DONE IF WE HAVE GOVERNMENT
THAT SHOWS NO REGARD FOR THE PEOPLE'S BASIC NEEDS AND NO
RESPECT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH FROM THEIR LEADERS,

WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT AND WHAT HAVE THEY THE RIGHT TO EXPECT?

THE ANSWER IS NOT A GREAT DEAL,

THEY WANT A CHANCE FOR A PERSONAL LIFE THAT THEY FEEL IS
WORTH LIVING,

THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THOSE
THEY ELECT TO PUBLIC POSITIONS,

THEY WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS ENVIRONMENTALLY CLEAN,

AND THEY WANT A CHANCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND
THEIR DREAMS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN,

AS DEMOCRATS, WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO
ACHIEVE TO THE LIMITS OF THEIR TALENTS AND THEIR ENERGIES,

WE BELIEVE IN HARD WORK AS A FAIR MEASURE OF OUR WILLINGNESS
TO ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED.

WE BELIEVE IN EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW, AND WE BELIEVE
THAT NO MAN IS ABOVE THE LAW.

PERHAPS, MORE FUNDAMENTALLY WE BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT IS
THE SERVANT, NOT THE MASTER OF THE PEOPLE. GOVERNMENT MUST
RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE THE VOICE OF AN ORDINARY CITIZEN CAN
BE HEARD.

OUR ANCESTORS DID NOT FOSTER A REVOLUTION 200 YEARS AGO TO
LEAVE US A GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT LISTEN TO ITS OWN PEOPLE.

TONIGHT, I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE SIGNAL HONOR OF PRESENTING TO
YOU THE GENTLEMAN YOU CAME TO HEAR.

IT IS AN HONOR BECAUSE HE HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND BELIEVES DEEPLY IN ITS PRINCIPLES.

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TEXAS
FROM 1948 TO 1954 WHEN HE RETIRED VOLUNTARILY TO ENTER PRIVATE
BUSINESS.

HE RE-ENTERED POLITICS IN 1970 WHEN HE DEFEATED GEORGE BUSH,
THE PRESENT REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, FOR THE U. S. SENATE.