

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN
To: AFL-CIO
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.
DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

I SAY "OUR CAMPAIGN" BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT IT. I HAVE BEEN BACK AND FORTH ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA UMPTEEN TIMES NOW AND I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW MUCH INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND HOW MANY PEOPLE PULLING TOGETHER IT TAKES TO RUN FOR A STATE WIDE OFFICE IN THIS STATE.

I SAY "OUR CAMPAIGN" BECAUSE IF I'M ELECTED IT HAS TO BE A PEOPLE'S EFFORT. AS YOU KNOW, MY OPPONENT IS A WEALTHY MAN AND HE ALREADY HAS THE FULL FORCE OF THE FAMILY FORTUNE BEHIND HIM. WE KNOW THAT WE SURELY ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MATCH HIM DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR IN THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COUNT ON OUR FRIENDS, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COUNT ON PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO GET THE WORD OUT TO EVERY PRECINCT THAT THE MAN ON THE STREET HAS A LOT RIDING ON THIS ELECTION AND THAT HE OUGHT TO CIRCLE NOVEMBER 5 IN RED ON HIS CALENDAR.

I REALLY HAD NO HESITANCY ABOUT COMING BEFORE YOU TODAY AND ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT, BECAUSE I'M RUNNING ON MY RECORD. I'M WILLING TO LAY IT ON THE LINE AND LEAVE THE CHOICE BETWEEN ME AND MY OPPONENT TO YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT.

YOU KNOW, THIS WEEK A REPORTER FOR ONE OF THE LARGE STATE NEWSPAPERS MADE THE STATEMENT TO ONE OF MY SUPPORTERS THAT THE ONE THING HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT ME IS THAT I AM ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME KIND OF CONTROVERSY. HE RELAYED THAT STATEMENT TO ME AND I REMINDED HIM OF A STATEMENT I KEPT UNDER MY GLASS DESK TOP AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. IT READ SIMPLY, "STREAMS BECOME CROOKED BY FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTENCE".

I BELIEVE THAT AND I RECKON THAT'S THE REASON I HAVE NEVER REALLY FEARED CONTROVERSY OR TRIED TO AVOID IT. I HAVE A LOT OF FAITH IN PEOPLE AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SAY WHAT I FEEL, STAND UP FOR WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT, AND THEN LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY.

FRANKLY, I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN EXPLORING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN STARTING NOW.

I WILL TELL YOU ONE THING: I MAY HAVE A CONTROVERSIAL RECORD BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A RECORD AND I'M WILLING TO STAND ON IT. I MAY HAVE TAKEN SOME CONTROVERSIAL STANDS BUT AT LEAST I'VE STOOD UP AND BEEN COUNTED. THAT'S THE WAY WE DO THINGS WHERE I COME FROM.

AND I'M PROUD OF IT. I THINK THAT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT IN A PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN THIS DAY AND TIME.

LOOKING BACK AT MY SERVICE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, NOTHING MAKES ME PROUDER THAN THE FACT THAT DURING MY TENURE THERE THE OFFICE BECAME KNOWN AS THE "PEOPLE'S ATTORNEY".

I FELT LIKE THE MAN ON THE STREET, THE ORDINARY TAX PAYER, OUGHT TO HAVE A VOICE IN THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT WHERE HIS INTERESTS AND HIS POCKETBOOK WERE BEING DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

I KNEW THAT TRYING TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO DO THIS WOULD BE CONTROVERSIAL AND THERE WOULD BE RESISTENCE. BUT WE WENT AHEAD AND ESTABLISHED A CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAM WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE IN THE NATION.

AS A RESULT, ONE MEMBER OF THE STATE UTILITIES COMMISSION ESTIMATED THAT WE HAD SAVED THE CONSUMERS OF THIS STATE \$1 MILLION A YEAR IN EXCESSIVE RATES INCREASES WHICH WERE DENIED BECAUSE OF THE INTERVENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. NOW THAT IS EXTRA DOLLARS IN YOUR POCKETS AND MINE EACH MONTH.

THIS WAS A PEOPLE'S PROGRAM AND I'M PROUD OF WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO DO TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION WHERE THE PEOPLE HAD NEVER HAD REPRESENTATION BEFORE.

I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE THAT WHEN SIMILAR RATE INCREASES AND MATTERS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST ARE CONSIDERED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES THE PEOPLE OUGHT TO HAVE A VOICE THERE TOO. AND I'M PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO HAVE THAT KIND OF SAY SO IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

EVERYBODY SAYS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE LIVES OF THE EVERYDAY CITIZEN, BUT NOBODY IS WILLING TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT. WELL, IT'S TIME WE STARTED, AND I THINK THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN.

THERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING IN WASHINGTON.

I HAVE LONG BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE. I DON'T HAVE TO STAND UP HERE AND TELL YOU HOW SEVERE THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IS IN THIS STATE. IF YOU'VE TRIED TO GET AN APPOINTMENT LATELY, YOU KNOW WHAT A HASSLE IT IS.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT MEDICAL COSTS ARE TODAY. YOU'VE HAD FRIENDS OR FAMILIES WHO HAVE REQUIRED HOSPITAL CARE AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE COSTS ARE. THE AVERAGE MAN JUST CANNOT AFFORD IT. ONE ILLNESS CAN SEE YOUR LIFE'S SAVINGS GO RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT MANY OF OUR ELDERLY ARE RECEIVING NO MEDICAL TREATMENT AT ALL BECAUSE THEIR LIMITED INCOMES JUST WON'T STRETCH THAT FAR.

IT IS CONTROVERSIAL TO TALK ABOUT IT BUT I'M NOT GOING TO KEEP QUIET JUST BECAUSE OF THAT. I BELIEVE THERE IS NO EXCUSE WHY IN A COUNTRY WITH THE RESOURCES OF THIS GREAT NATION, WE CAN'T GET ADEQUATE HEALTH MANPOWER TO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE. THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES AND HOSPITAL CARE WITHOUT ECONOMICALLY DESTROYING FAMILIES AND THEIR CHANCES TO SOME DAY HAVE A FEW OF THE EXTRAS IN LIFE.

I'M TOLD THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION AND THE MEDICAL MANPOWER BILLS NOW PENDING BEFORE THE CONGRESS TO GET OUT THIS SESSION. BUT THERE WILL BE NEW BILLS NEXT YEAR AND AS YOUR SENATOR, AS THE PEOPLE'S SENATOR, I'M GOING TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION BRINGING GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

TOGETHER IN A PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE AND WORKABLE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM. I'M GOING TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL HELP DIRECT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO THE AREAS OF OUR STATE AND NATION WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED MOST AND IF DOING SO MEANS THAT I MUST STAND AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM, THEN LET THE THUNDER ROLL.

I'VE BEEN ASKED WHETHER I WOULD ADVOCATE TAX CUTS IN SOME AREAS OR WHETHER I WOULD ADVOCATE TAX INCREASES IN OTHERS. MY ANSWER IS THIS: I'M FOR TAX FAIRNESS AND TO GET TAX FAIRNESS THERE HAS TO BE SOME CHANGES MADE.

THE ORDINARY WORKING MAN IS CARRYING TOO MUCH OF THE BURDEN. RECENT REVELATIONS CONCERNING THE TAXES OF THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAVE SHOWN WHAT YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH IF YOU'RE RICH AND CAN HIRE LAWYERS TO FIND THE LOOPHOLES.

WELL, I'M FOR PLUGGING THOSE LOOPHOLES AND LETTING THEM HELP PAY PART OF THE BILL FOR RUNNING THIS NATION.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH A TAX SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A MAN MAKING OVER \$100,000 A YEAR FROM INVESTMENTS TO PAY NO TAXES.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE WORRYING ABOUT THE FLOW OF AMERICAN DOLLARS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, OUR TAX LAWS MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRIES TO BUILD FACTORIES AND INVEST ABROAD THAN AT HOME.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN WE USE TAX LAWS TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN OIL EXPLORATION WHEN WE ARE LITERALLY BEING BLACKMAILED BY THE FOREIGN OIL POWERS AND OUGHT TO BE ENCOURAGING EFFORTS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THE ENERGY FIELD HERE AT HOME.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR TAX FAIRNESS FOR SINGLE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STILL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE TREMENDOUS COST OF MAINTAINING AN INDEPENDENT HOUSEHOLD.

I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH BELIEVING THAT EVERYBODY IN THIS COUNTRY OUGHT TO CARRY HIS SHARE OF THE TAX BURDEN, AND I FEEL SURE YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHIFT A LITTLE OF YOURS TO SOME SHOULDERS WHICH HAVE HAD A LONG TIME TO REST.

I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH BELIEVING THAT GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE AND THAT THE LITTLE MAN OUGHT TO HAVE AS STRONG A VOICE IN WASHINGTON AS THE BIG BOYS.

AND I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH BEING AT THE CENTER OF CONTROVERSY AS LONG AS YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR THE THINGS YOU BELIEVE IN, THE PEOPLE YOU BELIEVE IN, AND THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN YOU.

THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO KEEP ON DOING, AND THAT IS WHAT I WILL CONTINUE TO DO IF ELECTED UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

I HOPE THAT I WILL HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.