

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN
TO: STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
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IT MOST CERTAINLY IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO COME BACK
HERE TODAY AS AN EX-EMPLOYEE OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND A MEMBER OF YOUR
ASSOCIATION.

I FEEL THAT WHEN I STAND BEFORE THIS ASSOCIATION OF CAREER
EMPLOYEES THAT I CAN BE COMFORTABLE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE SPEAK THE
SAME LANGUAGE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE MILL TOGETHER.

SHORTLY AFTER I WAS ELECTED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, I JOINED
YOUR ORGANIZATION AND IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO ATTEND YOUR MEETINGS
DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS.

I FEEL I KNOW YOUR CONCERNS, YOUR PROBLEMS AND YOUR AMBITIONS.

YOU AND I KNOW, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN THERE, WHAT IT TAKES TO
MAKE STATE GOVERNMENT FUNCTION PROPERLY.

WE KNOW THE VALUE OF EXPERIENCE AND HOW IT HELPS GOVERNMENT TO
WORK SMOOTHLY.

AND WE HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN INEXPERIENCED
PEOPLE ARE PLACED IN POSITIONS OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT THE PREVIOUS
TRAINING THEY NEED TO EQUIP THEM TO DO THE JOB AND DO IT PROPERLY.

AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, I BRING 24 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT AS A QUALIFICATION FOR THE OFFICE.

STARTING AS A SUPERIOR COURT CLERK IN MY HOME COUNTY WHEN I WAS JUST OUT OF LAW SCHOOL, I THEN MOVED TO THE STATE SENATE WHERE I SERVED FOR FIVE TERMS AND WAS ELECTED BY MY FELLOW SENATORS AS PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THAT BODY.

IN 1968, I WAS ELECTED ATTORNEY GENERAL AND BECAME, LIKE YOU, A FULL TIME STATE EMPLOYEE AND STAYED IN THAT CATEGORY UNTIL I RESIGNED IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

MOST OF YOU KNOW ME AND KNOW SOMETHING OF MY SERVICE AND I AM PERFECTLY CONTENT THAT YOU JUDGE ME ON MY RECORD. I WILL BE CONTENT WITH YOUR VERDICT, DECIDED ON THAT BASIS.

YOU KNOW WE ARE LIVING IN UNEASY TIMES.

TRAVELLING ABOUT THE STATE DURING THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN -- AND I WAS IN ALL OF OUR 100 COUNTIES -- I FOUND THE PEOPLE TROUBLED BY THE INFLATION THAT IS CAUSING OUR DOLLARS TO BUY LESS AND LESS AT THE GROCERY, THE CLOTHING STORE AND THE GASOLINE STATION.

AND I ALSO FOUND THEM SKEPTICAL ABOUT THEIR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TELLING THEM THAT THINGS ARE ALL RIGHT AND THE CORNER UP AHEAD WILL BRING BETTER TIMES WHEN WE TURN IT.

THEY DON'T BELIEVE ANY ROSY PROMISES. THEY FEEL THEIR TRUST HAS BEEN ABUSED IN THE PAST AND THEY QUESTION STATEMENTS AND PROMISES MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

I FOUND THAT THEY HAVE A DEEP DESIRE TO BELIEVE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE THEY ELECT TO OFFICE AND WANT IN THE WORST WAY TO ELECT SOMEONE THEY CAN TRUST.

I OFFER MY RECORD IN PUBLIC LIFE AS TO MY INTEGRITY AND MY PAST PERFORMANCE AS TO MY KEEPING ANY PROMISES AND PLEDGES I MAKE.

THE NUMBER ONE THING TROUBLING THE PEOPLE IS MONEY.

THEY GO TO THE SUPERMARKET OR THE CORNER GROCERY AND THEY FIND THAT THEIR FOOD BUDGET MONEY WILL BUY LESS THIS WEEK THAN IT DID LAST WEEK. AND THEY KNOW NEXT WEEK IS GOING TO BE EVEN WORSE.

THEY PARKED THEIR CAR IN LONG GASOLINE LINES LAST WINTER TRYING TO GET ENOUGH GAS TO OPERATE THEIR AUTOMOBILES, TAKING WHAT THE GAS COMPANIES COULD GIVE THEM AT 55 TO 60 CENTS A GALLON.

THEY HAD A FEELING SOMEBODY HAD LET THEM DOWN AND THEY WERE PRETTY SURE IT WAS THEIR GOVERNMENT, WHOSE LEADERS HAD RESISTED CALLING THE SITUATION A "CRISIS" AND KEPT INSISTING IT WAS JUST A "PROBLEM" UNTIL THE GAS GOT SO LOW THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TO GO AROUND.

AND BESIDES HAVING THE FEELING THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAD LET THEM DOWN, THEY WERE DEAD SURE THAT THEY WERE BEING RIPPED OFF AS THE BIG OIL COMPANIES RAISED THE PRICE AT THE GAS PUMP AND THEN REPORTED SWOLLEN PROFITS IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THEY HAD — AND STILL HAVE — A FEELING THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GEARED TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRIVILEGED FEW AND IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE ORDINARY CITIZEN.

THEY READ OF PEOPLE MAKING MORE THAN \$100,000 A YEAR FROM INVESTMENTS WHO PAY NO INCOME TAX AND THEY WONDER ABOUT THE FAIRNESS OF OUR SYSTEM OF TAXATION.

AS A MATTER OF FACT IT IS YOU AND PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO ARE BEARING THE BRUNT OF OUR TAX COLLECTIONS AND I WANT TO SEE OUR FEDERAL INCOME TAX COLLECTED IN A MANNER THAT IS FAIRER AND WHICH DOESN'T PLACE MOST OF THE STRAIN ON MIDDLE INCOME PEOPLE.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT RAISING TAXES OR LOWERING TAXES - I'M TALKING ABOUT A FAIRER SYSTEM OF COLLECTING TAXES.

ONE THING THAT HAS TO BE DONE AND DONE IMMEDIATELY TO GET US BACK ON THE PATH OF FISCAL SANITY IS TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

YOU AND I KNOW THAT IF OUR FAMILIES SPEND MORE THAN OUR INCOME, YEAR AFTER YEAR, WE'LL END UP IN THE BANKRUPTCY COURT. YET THAT IS WHAT OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS. DURING 16 OF THOSE YEARS WE HAVE SPENT MORE MONEY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL THAN WE HAVE COLLECTED IN TAXES.

WE DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM IN NORTH CAROLINA WHERE WE HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET EVERY YEAR. THE LEGISLATURE FIGURES HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, TRIES TO BUILD IN A SURPLUS IN CASE OF SOME UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS, AND KEEPS THE BUDGET WITHIN EXPECTED REVENUES.

MAYBE WE SHOULD INVITE THE FEDERAL BUDGET OFFICIALS TO VISIT NORTH CAROLINA AND SEE HOW WE DO IT.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALMOST EVERYONE WILL AGREE THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GROWN TOO BIG AND IT HAS GOTTEN TO THE POINT TO WHERE IT INTERFERES TOO MUCH IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

I BELIEVE THAT ONE THING WE CAN AND MUST DO IS TO GIVE THE STATES MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN CARRYING OUT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS.

THE STATES SHOULD GET BACK SOME OF THE POWER THAT HAS BEEN SLIPPED FROM THEM DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES.

ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE EXPANSION OF FEDERAL POWERS AND TO INCREASE THE ROLES OF GOVERNMENTS, NAMELY THE STATES, WHICH ARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WOULD REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING WHICH IS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THIS INFLATION MESS IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES.

AND IF WE ACCEPT THIS PREMISE THAT FEDERAL POWERS SHOULD BE TRIMMED AND STATE POWERS SHOULD BE INCREASED; AND IF WE ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT FEDERAL SPENDING SHOULD BE CUT BACK AND THE EXPANDING OF FEDERAL INFLUENCE SHOULD BE HALTED, THEN I CAN SUBMIT TO YOU THAT I AM BEST QUALIFIED TO SERVE YOU IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

AS I POINTED OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS TALK, MY 24 YEARS OF SERVICE HAS EXPOSED ME TO LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AND HAS GIVEN ME A THOUGH UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THESE WORK. I WOULD BE A DENSE PUPIL INDEED IF, AFTER THAT MANY YEARS IN PUBLIC LIFE, I HAD NOT LEARNED WHAT MAKES THESE GOVERNMENTS WORK.

MY DUTIES AS CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT AND AS COUNTY ATTORNEY CERTAINLY GAVE ME AN INSIDE LOOK AT GOVERNMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND EXPERIENCE WITH DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS.

MY FIVE TERMS IN THE STATE SENATE PROVIDED EXPERIENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE WORKINGS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE MECHANICS OF DRAFTING LEGISLATION BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE.

MY ALMOST SIX YEARS AS ATTORNEY GENERAL GAVE ME EXPERIENCE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND AS HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT I SOUGHT TO EXPAND ITS SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE.

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER MY DIRECTION AND I HOPE THE FORCES OF INEXPERIENCE DON'T DESTROY WHAT WE DID IN THAT FIELD.

WHEN I LEFT THE OFFICE, THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WAS A FAR STRONGER ORGANIZATION THAN I FOUND IT IN 1969, AND TODAY THERE IS A POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK THAT CONNECTS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ALL OVER THE STATE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED DURING MY TENURE THERE.

I BELIEVE MY RECORD AS ATTORNEY GENERAL NOT ONLY SHOWS THAT I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT CAN BE EFFICIENT BUT THAT IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IT WAS EFFICIENT.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ASKED A TEAM OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN TO COME TO RALEIGH AND SEE IF THEY COULD FIND ANY WASTE AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO MAKE THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS MORE EFFICIENT.

IF THEY FOUND ANYTHING THAT THEY THOUGHT COULD BE DONE BETTER IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THEY KEPT IT TO THEMSELVES BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONE DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO CHANGE ANYTHING.

SO I COME TO YOU TODAY AS A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE AND AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHO IS SEEKING TO SERVE YOU ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL.

I COME AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND AS THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR THAT POSITION.

AS I SAID AT THE START, I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE WILL BE BEST SERVED BY ELECTING A MAN WHO HAS HAD GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE AND WHO WILL NOT HAVE TO GROPE HIS WAY ALONG TO LEARN THE WAYS OF DEALING WITH GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS.

ALSO, I HAVE A VERY DEEP FEELING THAT THE OFFICE I AM SEEKING SHOULD BE BROUGHT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, AND I MEAN THIS LITERALLY.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, I WILL, SOON AFTER I TAKE OFFICE, ESTABLISH BRANCH OFFICES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE SO THAT CITIZENS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS OR COMPLAINTS OR WHO WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR ELECTED SENATOR WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO AND DO SO PERSONALLY.

I BELIEVE ESTABLISHING THESE OFFICES WILL BE PRODUCTIVE AND WILL SERVE TO HELP ME REPRESENT THEM BETTER AND TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION IF THEY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT NEED IMMEDIATE AND INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION.



I HAVE A RECORD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, AND AS STATE EMPLOYEES
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THAT RECORD.

AGAIN I SAY, I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT YOUR VERDICT IN THIS
RACE BASED ON THAT RECORD.