

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN
To: U. N. C. FACULTY CLUB
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO VISIT WITH YOU
TODAY.

WHEN I WAS INVITED TO JOIN YOU FOR THIS LUNCHEON, I
ACCEPTED GLADLY EVEN THOUGH I AM IN THE MIDST OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN
AND I WOULD HARDLY CALL THIS A POLITICAL OCCASION. THE TRUTH IS, I
HAVE ENJOYED MY PREVIOUS VISITS WITH YOU SO MUCH THAT I REALLY WANTED
TO BE HERE, POLITICS OR NO POLITICS.

SINCE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, I'VE BEEN TRAVELING ALL
ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA, LISTENING AND TALKING TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. I
BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT THEY ARE THINKING AND WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE.

YOU WON'T BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT THE ONE BIG THING
THAT IS BOTHERING PEOPLE IS THEIR MONEY.

THEY SEE THE BUYING EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR DOLLARS
DWINDLING EVERY WEEK AND THEY ARE GROWING AFRAID.

LAST WEEK THE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER SAID THE
PEOPLE GETTING HURT WORST IN THIS RECESSION ARE THE WALL STREET BROKERS.

I WOULD AGREE THAT A MAN WHO HAS BEEN MAKING \$75,000 A YEAR
WHOSE COMMISSIONS ARE CUT TO \$30,000 HAS BEEN HURT.

BUT HE HASN'T BEEN HURT AS MUCH AS THE ELDERLY PERSON TRYING TO STRETCH A \$250 SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK TO COVER BARE NECESSITIES FOR A MONTH. OR A MAN TRYING TO FEED, CLOTHE AND SHELTER HIS FAMILY ON \$8,000 A YEAR.

UNLESS SOME MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO HALT THIS UPWARD SPIRAL, THE NATION IS IN FOR REAL TROUBLE. THE AMERICAN CONSUMER CAN ENDURE JUST SO MUCH.

THE PEOPLE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT.

THEY ARE SKEPTICAL AND THEY ARE GROWING MORE AND MORE CYNICAL ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THEIR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS BEING RUN.

THEY CERTAINLY DON'T BELIEVE ANY ROSY PROMISES FROM THEIR LEADERS -- ELECTED OR OTHERWISE -- THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTER WHEN WE TURN THE NEXT CORNER.

THEY HAVE SEEN A PRESIDENT RESIGN UNDER A DARK CLOUD AND THEN HAVE SEEN HIS SUCCESSOR ISSUE HIM A BLANKET PARDON EVEN BEFORE FORMAL CHARGES WERE LODGED. TO THE PEOPLE, THIS SMACKED OF SPECIAL TREATMENT AND MADE THEM WONDER ABOUT THE EQUALITY OF JUSTICE.

AS YOU KNOW, I AM RUNNING FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

WHOEVER WINS THE SEAT IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION -- AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL -- WILL HAVE NO EASY TASK AS HE TRIES TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THIS COUNTRY.

BUT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO WASHINGTON TO ADD MY VOICE AND MY ENERGY TO THE EFFORT.

YOU KNOW, LAST WEEK A REPORTER FOR ONE OF THE LARGE STATE NEWSPAPERS TOLD 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.

NOW YOU AS ACADEMICIANS, MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE, VALUE YOUR RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT AND MAKE YOURSELVES HEARD SO I AM SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY WANTING TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED WHEN SOME ISSUE ARISES THAT I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT.

I USED TO KEEP A STATEMENT UNDER THE GLASS TOP ON MY DESK IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. IT READ SIMPLY: "STREAMS BECOME CROOKED BY FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE".

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 \$104 MILLION A YEAR IN EXCESSIVE RATE 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 FOR A COUNTRY WITH THE RESOURCES OF THIS GREAT NATION NOT TO BRING 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 A 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 IT WILL JUST HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

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 HAVE 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 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 CORPORATIONS.

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.

FINALLY, EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE SHE HAS BEEN MISTREATED DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS, I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN AMERICA.

THIS NATION IS STRONG AND IT WILL RECOVER.

AND ITS PEOPLE ARE THE GREATEST PEOPLE ON EARTH, WHICH IS THE REAL SOURCE OF ITS STRENGTH.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT TOO DEMANDING BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH I BELIEVE THEY WANT AND SHOULD HAVE ,

THEY WANT A CHANCE FOR A PERSONAL LIFE THAT IS WORTH LIVING.

THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS.

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

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

I BELIEVE IN THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO ACHIEVE TO THE LIMITS OF THEIR TALENTS AND ENERGIES IN A FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE IN HARD WORK AS A FAIR MEASURE OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED.

I BELIEVE THAT MILLIONS SHOULD NOT STAND IDLE WHILE THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.

I BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS SHOULD NEVER BECOME A WAY OF LIFE IN THIS NATION.

I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST REMOVE ANY BARRIERS THAT LIMIT CITIZENS BECAUSE OF THEIR COLOR OR THEIR AGE OR THEIR SEX.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CITIZEN MUST BE PROTECTED IN HIS HOME AND ON THE STREETS FROM THOSE WHO WOULD DO HIM BODILY HARM OR MOLEST HIM IN ANY WAY.

AND, MOST FUNDAMENTALLY, I BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT IS THE SERVANT, NOT THE MASTER OF THE PEOPLE. WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT GOVERNMENT REGAINS ITS SENSITIVITY SO THAT THE COMPLAINT OF THE ORDINARY CITIZEN CAN AGAIN BE HEARD.

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

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME, AND THAT YOU BELIEVE THESE THINGS TOO.