

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN  
TO: N. C. DEMO. WOMEN'S CONV.  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

YOU ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF PARTY FUNCTIONS IN OUR STATE AND EVERY DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, INCLUDING MYSELF, OWES YOU A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE ON OUR BEHALF. WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU THIS FALL, AND I KNOW FROM TRAVELING AROUND THE STATE THAT YOU ALREADY ARE INVOLVED IN THE KIND OF GROUND WORK THAT HAS BECOME SO NECESSARY TO INSURE DEMOCRATIC VICTORIES IN OUR STATE.

IT ALWAYS IS INSPIRING FOR ME TO VISIT WITH A GROUP OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN BECAUSE YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS SO HIGH. AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED THAT ENTHUSIASM THIS FALL. THE REPUBLICANS ARE COUNTING ON US TO GET COMPLACENT, TO SLACK OFF, TO GO FISHING ON ELECTION DAY AND GIVE THEM A VICTORY BY DEFAULT.

IN SOME AREAS OF THE STATE WHERE THERE ARE NO HOTLY CONTESTED LOCAL RACES THERE IS A DANGER THIS CAN HAPPEN. BUT YOU MUST HELP US MAKE SURE THAT IT DOESN'T. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO HELP GENERATE THE KIND OF INTEREST AND EXCITEMENT FROM ONE END OF NORTH CAROLINA TO THE OTHER THAT WILL GET THE DEMOCRATIC VOTE OUT, GIVE US A RESOUNDING VICTORY AND PUT NORTH CAROLINA SOLIDLY BACK IN THE DEMOCRATIC COLUMN AGAIN.

WE HAVE SOME OF YOUR MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS WORKING ON THIS VERY THING --- THE GET-OUT-THE-VOTE DRIVE --- DOWN IN RALEIGH RIGHT NOW. GLADYS BULLARD, WYMENE VALAND AND MICKIE HANULA ARE SPEARHEADING OUR STATEWIDE EFFORT AND ARE DOING A GREAT JOB. MANY OF YOU ALREADY ARE INVOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. SO I CAN TESTIFY FIRSTHAND TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND SAY TO YOU, "MORE POWER TO YOU! THE PARTY NEEDS EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY AND EVERY HOUR YOU CAN SPARE."

THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS BOTH IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE NATION. AFTER THE PRIMARY I MET IN GREENSBORO WITH THE WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN CANDIDATES IN THE VARIOUS PRIMARIES AROUND THE STATE. IT WAS A LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE GROUP AND CERTAINLY A GOOD INDICATION OF THE EXTEND OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICS OF OUR PARTY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE JUDGE SUSIE SHARPE AS OUR CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE NOMINATED TO A STATEWIDE OFFICE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE NATION. AT LEAST 44 WOMEN HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO RUN FOR CONGRESS, AND THE TOTAL MAY EVENTUALLY GO AS HIGH AS 49. CONNECTICUT, MARYLAND AND NEVADA ALL HAVE WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR. NEW YORK HAS NOMINATED A WOMAN AS LT. GOVERNOR, AND MARYLAND HAS NOMINATED A WOMAN TO RUN FOR THE SENATE.

MANY YEARS AGO, THOMAS WOLFE, WHOM WE AS NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE PROUD TO CLAIM AS A NATIVE SON, SPOKE OF THE "PROMISE OF AMERICA" BY SAYING: "TO EVERY MAN HIS CHANCE, TO EVERY MAN, REGARDLESS OF HIS BIRTH, HIS SHINNING GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY -- TO EVERY MAN THE RIGHT TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO BE HIMSELF, AND TO BECOME WHATEVER THING HIS MANHOOD AND HIS

VISION CAN COMBINE TO MAKE HIM — THIS, SEEKER, IS THE PROMISE OF AMERICA".

YOU WILL NOTE THAT WOLFE SPOKE IN TERMS OF "EVERY MAN."

THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MANY WOMEN INVOLVED TODAY IN AMERICAN POLITICS SHOULD BE EVIDENCE ENOUGH THAT THE NEEDS OF OUR TIMES AND THE DESIRES OF THE WOMEN IN OUR NATION DICTATE THAT WOLFE'S "PROMISE OF AMERICA" BE AVAILABLE TO EVERY AMERICAN, MAN OR WOMAN, AND THAT SEX SHOULD BE NO BARRIER TO PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL, OR POLITICAL FULFILLMENT.

I AM SURE YOU SHARE THIS SENTIMENT WITH ME AND LIKEWISE THAT YOU SHARE MY DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE A GREAT DEMOCRATIC VICTORY ON NOVEMBER 5. AFTER ALL, THAT IS WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION IS ALL ABOUT.

I THINK THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GO ABOUT DOING THIS IS SIMPLY TO LAY THE RECORD OF OUR PARTY ON THE LINE, TALK ABOUT WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST AND SOME OF THE THINGS WE STAND FOR NOW.

LOOKING BACK AT MY SERVICE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, NOTHING MAKES ME PROUDER THAN THE FACT THAT DURING MY TENURE 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 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 AND THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN TALK ABOUT DURING THIS GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

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 AS THE UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA I WILL BE 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.

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, AND 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.

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 CAN FIND THE LOOPHOLES.

I'M FOR PLUGGING THOSE LOOPHOLES.

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.