

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONORABLE LAWTON CHILES
UNITED STATES SENATOR
NORTH CAROLINA YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUB
INSTALLATION BANQUET
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 8, 1975

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE TO YOU YOUR SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING, THE HONORABLE LAWTON CHILES, SENIOR SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, LAWTON CHILES DREW NATIONAL ATTENTION QUICKLY DURING HIS 1970 CAMPAIGN BY WALKING SOME 1003 MILES ACROSS THE STATE OF FLORIDA, LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE AND WINNING THEIR CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

ALREADY HE HAS PROVED THEIR GOOD JUDGMENT, EMERGING AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. HIS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ARE AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THE STATUTE HE HAS ACHIEVED. HE NOW SERVES ON THE PRESTIGIOUS NEW BUDGET COMMITTEE, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

AND THIS YEAR HIS DESIRE FOR OPENESS IN GOVERNMENT AND RENEWAL OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE CONGRESS PROMPTED HIM TO PROPOSE AND OBTAIN PASSAGE OF SENATE RULES WHICH FOR YEARS WILL BE CONSIDERED MILESTONES.

THESE "SUNSHINE RULES," AS THEY ARE NOW CALLED, PROVIDE THAT COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND FINAL DRAFTING (MARK UP) SESSIONS WILL NOW BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. I WAS PLEASED TO JOIN HIM IN SUPPORT OF THESE RULE CHANGES AND BELIEVE AS HE DOES THAT THEY WILL HELP GIVE THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS MORE CREDIBILITY AND INSURE THAT ACTION TAKEN IN FACT WILL BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

I ADMIRE THE KIND OF CANDOR AND OPENESS THAT LAWTON CHILES HAS COME TO STAND FOR. FOUR YEARS FROM HIS ELECTION HE STILL IS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND IS VERY MUCH "THE PEOPLE'S SENATOR."

HE INTENDS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY AND THAT IS THE REASON HE HAS KEPT HIS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA WHERE THEY WILL KNOW THE NEEDS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS AND HE CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO THEM.

I THINK THAT IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. AND THAT IS WHY I SENT MEMBERS OF MY STAFF TO LAKELAND, FLORIDA TO SEE HIS STATE OFFICE IN OPERATION.

WE WERE SO IMPRESSED THAT I MODELED MY OFFICE AFTER HIS AND JUST HOPE THAT WE CAN STAY AS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA AS LAWTON CHILES HAS TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA.