

REMARKS BY

U. S. SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN

TO

NORTH CAROLINA YOUNG DEMOCRAT'S CLUB

FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

JUNE 7, 1975

CONGRESSMAN ROSE, SENATOR HOLLINGS, GOVERNOR HUNT,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS:

I FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS GATHERING
OF YOUNG DEMOCRATS, SINCE IT IS BEING HELD IN THIS 200TH
YEAR OF OUR EXISTENCE AS A FREE NATION.

WE ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE THAT BIRTHDAY NATIONALLY THIS
YEAR, AND I HOPE WE WILL DO IT IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

I HOPE WE WILL CELEBRATE IT WITH MORE THAN BALLOONS AND
TEE-SHIRTS OR EVEN WITH SPEECHES AT DINNERS ON THE GROUNDS,
ALTHOUGH I AM SURE THESE WILL BE A PART OF THE OBSERVANCE.

BUT I HOPE THAT WE WILL ALSO OBSERVE IT IN A DIGNIFIED
AND SCHOLARLY WAY, BY SEARCHING BACK INTO HISTORY AND SEEKING
TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS OF PEOPLE IN A SMALL COLONY OF
THE CROWN WHO DECIDED TO BE FREE AND BE RID OF TYRANNY AND
OPPRESSIVE TAXATION.

I HOPE THAT THE MEDIA WILL GIVE GENEROUSLY OF ITS TIME
AND SPACE TO TELL THE PUBLIC OF THE EVENTS OF 1775 AND WILL
TRY TO PORTRAY THE CHARACTERS OF THE MEN INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT
FOR FREEDOM.

I HOPE THAT WE USE THIS OBSERVANCE OF OUR BICENTENNIAL
FOR A REBIRTH OF THE SPIRIT THAT CAUSED THOSE RUGGED INDIVI-
DUALISTS TO BAND TOGETHER IN A SOLID COALITION TO GAIN THEIR
FREEDOM.

THAT SPIRIT, I BELIEVE, IS THE BASIC SPIRIT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHOSE HISTORY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE NATION AND WHOSE GOALS ARE THE SAME GOALS THAT CAUSED THE ORIGINAL PATRIOTS TO SEEK LIBERTY.

AND TODAY, AS THE NATION FACES SERIOUS CHALLENGES FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT, I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT WILL CONQUER OUR DIFFICULTIES AND PRESERVE OUR FREE WAY OF LIFE.

IF WE, AS A PARTY, ARE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THAT WE MUST, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN THE PUBLIC BUSINESS AND WORK TO ELECT GOOD CANDIDATES WHO WILL UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

WE CANNOT JOIN THOSE WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT BECAUSE THEY SAY "THE SYSTEM ISN'T WORKING, SO WHY BOTHER?"

DROPOUTS SUCH AS THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO ARE TYPICAL OF JUST 1975. THERE WERE THOSE 200 YEARS AGO WHO SAID THE IDEA OF REVOLUTION WOULDN'T WORK AND ABSTAINED FROM THE ACTION.

DROPPING OUT AVAILS NOTHING BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS WE MUST DO AND PROBLEMS WE MUST SOLVE IF WE ARE TO REMAIN THE STRONG AND FREE NATION THAT OUR FOREFATHERS ESTABLISHED.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO CATALOGUE THE DANGERS THAT WE ARE FACED WITH TODAY. I DON'T NEED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY, THE ECONOMY, NATIONAL DEFENSE OR THE RISING CRIME ON OUR STREETS.

WE MUST WORK TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS AS AMERICANS AND AS DEMOCRATS.

I THINK THERE ARE SOME VERY WELL DEFINED POSITIONS WE MUST TAKE AS WE APPROACH OUR PROBLEMS.

WE MUST FACE UP TO THEM HONESTLY. DOUBLE TALK OR EMPTY ORATORY WON'T SERVE. THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR AN END TO HYPOCRISY HAVE MADE THEIR POINT AND IT HAS PROVED TO BE VALID.

WE MUST NOT REJECT DISSENT BUT BE READY TO LISTEN. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED BY DISSENTERS AND THAT WE ARE SERVED WELL BY HONEST DEBATE.

IF WE ACCEPT DISSENT AND HONEST ARGUMENT, THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT WE REJECT BOTH VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY.

THE PERSON READY FOR VIOLENCE HAS ALREADY PASSED THE POINT WHERE HE IS WILLING TO STOP AND TALK, OR LISTEN, BUT IS INTENT ON HAVING HIS WAY BY HARMING ANOTHER PERSON.

AND THE BIGOT WHO WILL NOT LISTEN TO SOMEONE BECAUSE HE IS TOO YOUNG OR TOO ELDERLY IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE BIGOT WHO WILL NOT HEAR SOMEONE BECAUSE HE IS BLACK OR BECAUSE HE IS OF ANOTHER RELIGION.

WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR NATIONAL GOALS.

IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT SOLVING OUR ENERGY PROBLEM -- AND WE HAD BETTER BE -- THEN WE MUST END OUR WASTREL WAYS AND BE PREPARED TO CONSERVE, AND WE MUST DO THIS AS INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY IT IS GOING TO WORK.

IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT CLEANING UP OUR AIR AND OUR WATER, THEN WE MUST BE PREPARED TO USE OUR NATIONAL FUNDS TO DO SO.

IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING THE CRIME RATE, THEN WE MUST GET INVOLVED, SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND NOT JUST "DROP OUT" AS SO MANY HAVE DONE.

IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT KEEPING OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE STRONG, THEN WE MUST BE WILLING TO PAY THE TAXES THAT WILL INSURE THE SAFETY OF OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN.

THESE SACRIFICES MUST BE BORNE BY ALL OF US -- BY THE AFFLUENT AS WELL AS THE YOUNG, THE AGED, AND THE POOR BECAUSE IT MUST BE A NATIONAL EFFORT.

I BELIEVE THAT THE NATION, IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS, WILL TURN TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, JUST AS IT HAS IN TIMES PAST, WHEN IT FOUND ITSELF IN TROUBLE.

IN 1932, WHEN THE GREAT DEPRESSION STALKED THE LAND, THE PEOPLE TURNED TO FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

LAST YEAR, IN THE AFTERMATH OF WATERGATE, THE PEOPLE AGAIN VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES AND GAVE THE PARTY A LARGE MAJORITY IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AND IN THE STATE CAPITALS.

AND NEXT YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE WILL AGAIN ASK THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE OVAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AND THE MANSION ON BLOUNT STREET IN RALEIGH.

WE WILL WIN NEXT YEAR, BUT WE WILL WIN ONLY IF WE DESERVE TO WIN.

WE WILL WIN IF WE, AS DEMOCRATS ARE WILLING TO GET DEEPLY INVOLVED AND PAY THE PRICE WITH HARD WORK.

WE WILL WIN IF WE TRUST THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY, IN TURN, WILL REGAIN THEIR TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, IN THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND IN THEIR CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

WE WILL WIN IF WE TURN OUR BACKS ON THE CYNICISM THAT PERMEATED OUR GOVERNMENT DURING THE YEARS OF WATERGATE.

I CONGRATULATE YOU MEMBERS OF THE YDC BECAUSE YOU SHOW, BY YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE TONIGHT, THAT YOU ARE NOT AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT.

YOU ARE INVOLVED AND YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THESE ASKING FOR A FREE RIDE.

YOU ARE USING YOUR TIME AND YOUR ENERGY TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM, NOT MERELY SITTING BACK AND SAYING THAT IT "DOESN'T WORK, SO WHAT'S THE USE?"

AND I THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO NOTE THAT YOUR EFFORTS TO HELP YOUR STATE AND YOUR COUNTRY ARE IN THE BEST TRADITION OF THOSE MEN WHO 200 YEARS AGO DECIDED THAT LIBERTY WAS WORTH THE BATTLE AND FREEDOM WORTH THE EFFORT.

###