

Notes for Introduction of William J. Guste, Jr.
Attorney General of Louisiana
Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner
Raleigh, North Carolina
March 13, 1976

Robert Morgan
United States Senator

1. "Billy" Guste representative of a new breed of attorney general, and a new breed of Southern political leader.

2. As attorney general of Louisiana, Guste has not been the one to hang in the background, issuing an occasional opinion, but to come forth and be an active champion of the people.

3. He has taken stands on crime and corruption, as you might expect of an attorney general, but has also been active in the areas of consumer protection, environmental protection, and the energy crisis.

4. The office of attorney general can be one of the most effective of state offices, if it is held by a vigorous and aggressive individual. Guste is having effect.

5. There is a strong demand for such leadership in the Democratic Party, and it is good to see Southerners coming along who can fill the bill.

6. Guste has attracted national attention by his evenhanded actions in race relations, especially.

7. It may be that the South's time for leadership is at hand, with more and more politicians from our part of the country reflecting the spirit of the "New South."

8. It could very well turn out that the South, which is the most integrated part of the country now, is in a position of leadership. With the North now going through what the South went through ten years ago and more, and with the whole country turning away from liberal spending, the South may be the most stable and fiscally moderate part of the country.

9. The South may very well take its place as the nation's primary source of leadership.

10. So it is especially good to see new Southern political talent coming along at just the right time.

11. Attorney General Guste is proof positive that fairmindedness and moderation are two Southern habits which have not been forgotten. He called 'em as he saw 'em, with regard to Watergate in Washington, and police-community relations in Louisiana. And the people have respected him, returning him to office for a second term as attorney general by an overwhelming vote.

12. Glad to be able to hear him tonight, because it looks as though we will be hearing more from him in the future.