

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
JANUARY 4, 1978  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

*Introduction  
of V. President  
Mondale*

11

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO INTRODUCE OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST ON THIS OCCASION.

I ALSO FEEL THAT NORTH CAROLINA IS HONORED TO HAVE HIM IN OUR STATE TODAY. I HAVE BEEN PREACHING THE VIRTUES OF NORTH CAROLINA AND NORTH CAROLINIANS TO HIM FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS AND I AM HAPPY THAT HE IS NOW HERE TO SEE FOR HIMSELF.

WHEN I WENT TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY, 1975 TO START MY SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, ONE OF THE FIRST COLLEAGUES I CAME TO KNOW WELL WAS TODAY'S GUEST.

HE WAS A GREAT HELP IN GETTING A COUNTRY LAWYER FROM HARNETT COUNTY STARTED IN WHAT I FELT WAS THE RIGHT DIRECTION. NO OTHER MEMBER OF THE SENATE WAS KINDER TO ME THAN WAS HE AND NO OTHER SENATOR WAS MORE GRACIOUS IN OFFERING TO SHARE THE WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE THAT HE HAD ACQUIRED DURING HIS YEARS ON CAPITOL HILL.

I THOUGHT THAT THE FACT THAT WE HAD BOTH SERVED OUR STATES AS ATTORNEY GENERAL MIGHT HAVE CAUSED HIM TO HAVE SOME SYMPATHY FOR A NEWCOMER BUT I SOON LEARNED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE WITH THE OTHER FRESHMEN SENATORS WHO ARRIVED THAT YEAR.

THIS MINISTER'S SON GOT AN EARLY START IN POLITICS WHEN IN 1948, THE SAME YEAR HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, HE ORGANIZED AND MANAGED HUBERT HUMPHREY'S FIRST SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN.

AFTER SERVING IN THE ARMY AND LATER GRADUATING FROM LAW SCHOOL, HE PRACTICED IN MINNEAPOLIS UNTIL HE WAS APPOINTED STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL. IN 1964, WHEN SENATOR HUMPHREY BECAME VICE PRESIDENT, HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE SENATE AND HE HAS WON ELECTIONS SINCE THEN TO KEEP HIM THERE.

KNOWING HIM AS I DO, I WAS IMMENSELY PLEASED WHEN THE PRESIDENT CHOSE HIM FOR HIS RUNNING MATE ON THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET IN THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTION. HE GAVE A BALANCE TO THAT TICKET AND I FEEL THAT HIS WISE COUNSEL GIVES A BALANCE TO THINKING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

NOTWITHSTANDING ALL OF THE HONORS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN HIM, HE HAS NOT LOST HIS SENSE OF HUMILITY.

THIS WAS BROUGHT HOME TO ME RATHER SHARPLY THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM AFTER THE INAUGURATION.

"ROBERT," HE TOLD ME, "YOU AND I HAVE BECOME CLOSER FRIENDS THAN MOST MEMBERS OF THE SENATE GET TO BE. WE'VE BOTH BEEN ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN OUR STATES AND WE HAVE SERVED TOGETHER ON THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE AND ON THE SELECT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. FOR THAT REASON, I WANT OUR ASSOCIATION NOW THAT I AM VICE PRESIDENT TO BE SORT OF INFORMAL. IN THE FUTURE, I THINK YOU SHOULD JUST SIMPLY CALL ME "YOUR EXCELLENCY!"

SERIOUSLY, IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE HIM IN OUR STATE AND IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE TO PRESENT HIM AT THIS TIME.

I GIVE YOU VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE.