

REMARKS

BY

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The late Will Rogers used to say, "I don't belong to any organized political party -- I'm a Democrat."

That was an exaggeration, of course, but there was a grain of truth in that statement.

The Democrats have always had a reputation of free wheeling -- a group of free spirits who would battle each other during primary campaigns but who would later join ranks to face a common enemy in the general elections. And most of the time, especially in North Carolina, that would be successful.

The Democratic Party has always been seen as the party which more nearly had the welfare of the common man as an integral part of its basic philosophy.

The other party has been historically seen as the party of the more powerful, the richer, and the special interests.

That may be one reason why the Democrats have gained ground nationally while the other party's percentage of the national voter registration has slipped badly.

Democrats today occupy most of the seats in Congress, in the Governorships, in the State Legislatures.

I, for one, believe that this situation will continue as long as we remain the party of progress, willing to accept new ideas that come with changing times.

"You won't find any old fogies among us," the late Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, used to say. "Nor will you find what is still worse -- young fogies."

But if the Democratic Party has waxed strong in recent years, it must always be vigilant to maintain that position by acting in a responsible manner in its approach to public issues.

And while we have gained the reputation as the "Party of Progress" we cannot afford to chase after every new idea or scheme that arises.

We must be fiscally responsible in our administration of government.

Double digit inflation is not progress and large deficits in the federal budget, which are a principal cause of inflation, aren't progressive.

They may help pay for some programs that are nice to have, but nice programs won't be considered so desirable when

people see their dollars buying less at the grocery store  
or the gasoline station.

That is the reason that I said in a speech on the Senate  
floor last week that I am going to oppose any attempt to  
tack additional spending proposals onto the Federal budget  
this year.

In the long run, I believe that fiscal stability is  
really more progressive than social programs which cause  
huge budget deficits.

Weakening our national defense posture to divert money  
to other areas is not progress.

Unless this country can defend itself from foreign  
attack and unless it can protect its flag on the high seas,  
we will have taken a giant step backward rather than march

with the times. Yet there are those who would see us disarm and fall behind our potential adversaries in global strength and in our ability to defend the Free World. When that happens, we become a second class power and that is not my idea of progress.

The evolution of Big Government in Washington is not progress.

More and more, the Federal Government is poking and prying into the private affairs of our citizens in ways that were not thought of 20 years ago.

From saccharin to smoking cigarettes, the government is attempting to tell adult Americans what they should and should not do, even though they have been warned and as adults have the right to make their own choice.

Since I have been in the Senate, my office has gotten

hundreds of complaints from businessmen about the ever-growing number of Federal rules they must follow, the increasing number of federal agencies they must deal with and the avalanche of official forms they must fill out.

Interference with the private lives and businesses of people isn't progress.

I am not suggesting that we turn back the clock to the 19th century, and I don't mean that we should adopt a negative attitude. Rather I think we should be positive and progressive; but I think we should evaluate each program and ask whether it represents real progress or is it just another attempt to further complicate our lives.

Supreme Court Justice Brandeis in 1928 said in a notable opinion that the individual's "right to be let alone (is the)

most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by  
civilized man."

I think that is just as true today as it was then, and  
I feel sure that businessmen who fight government red tape  
constantly will agree.

I feel our national problems could be solved, for the  
most part, if we would, as a nation, follow some very simple  
rules.

1. Live within our income. This would go far to reduce  
inflation and bring confidence to the people.

2. Maintain a strong defense. Let us be strong enough  
that any potential adversary would bury any intention of  
attacking us or our allies in the Western World.

3. Care for our needy, our sick and our elderly who



are not able to care for themselves. The Democratic Party has always been the party that has the more humanitarian attitude toward the unfortunate among us. But let those who are able to work find jobs and not be public charges.

4. See to it that equal opportunity -- both in education and in the commercial world -- is afforded every person so that he may earn according to his or her ability.

5. Review the structure of our Federal Government and give full support to necessary programs but abolish or trim down those agencies whose existence does little or nothing for the public's well being.

North Carolina's situation is far more favorable than that of the Federal Government.

For one thing, we have no current debt except what the

people have voted upon themselves in bond issues. By law, North Carolina balances its budget each year. I wish the United States could say the same.

Perhaps it is because the Democratic Party has been in control of State Government for all but four of the last 78 years that North Carolina is in better shape than the nation, or many of its sister states.

Without being a chauvinist, I feel that I can point with pride at many of the good things about our State.

We have no great cities with their tenements and their slums, where crime abounds and poverty is a way of life.

We have fine schools, a great system of private colleges and universities, and a State University System second to none. And the latter will remain great and will lead the

State and the South into the future if Secretary Joseph Califano will just leave us alone.

We have an economy that is a fine blend of agriculture and industry and we live under a system which says a man doesn't have to belong to any organization that he doesn't want to in order to get or hold a job.

North Carolina has been blest by good government and as a Democrat, I am proud that practically all of it has been supplied by my Party.

Let me make one thing as clear as I can. When I spoke earlier of the nation's problems I did not mean to find undue fault or to nit pick, but rather to point to some trends that I felt should be changed.

America is the strongest, greatest country on earth

and I want her to stay in that position.

The Free World looks to us for leadership, and well  
it might because we assumed that role just after World War II.

I do not want to see our strength or our position dissipated  
to any degree.

President John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, quite aptly described  
our position in the world when he said, "If we succeed in this  
country, if we make this country a great place to live in, if  
we reflect our vitality and energy and strength around the  
world, then the cause of freedom is strengthened. But if we  
fail, all fail. If we stand still, freedom stands still."

I don't think that you want to fail or want to stand still.  
I feel that you share the beliefs of this Democratic President,  
whose failure to finish his term was a tragedy for this country.

I think you want, like John Kennedy, to make this a  
"great country to live in."

Historically, that has been the goal of the Democratic  
Party -- to make this country a better place and to keep it  
the leader of the Free World.

We, the Democrats, have not been the voice of the  
special interests and while the other party has tried to  
classify us as the party which is the "big spender," it  
was Richard Nixon who gave us our first \$200 billion budget  
and also our first \$300 billion budget.

We have been the voice of the people -- the party who  
cared about the individual. We plead guilty to that.

We have been the party that espoused equal opportunity  
and treatment for all Americans. We plead guilty to that.

We have been the party that America turned to in times of economic recession and depression. We plead guilty to that.

And I believe that the future of America and the Democratic Party is bright, because I feel that the majority of our more than 200 million citizens feel that the Democratic Party's principles and goals are closest to what they want this nation to be.