

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN
DANIELS FAMILY REUNION
WANCHESE, North Carolina
August 19, 1979

It was almost 50 years ago that Melvin Douglas, Sr., and Josephus Daniels got together on these sandy shores and decided that it would be a good idea for the whole family to meet together at least once a year.

This is your 47th annual meeting, and I am sincerely grateful for your invitation to share this special day -- with a very special family -- in a

very special part of North Carolina.

I warmly recall my previous visit with you when I was Attorney General, and to know that you would want me back makes me even happier to be here.

I hope this means you consider me at least a "kissing cousin".

You and this part of the state fit together like hand-in-glove -- rich in history, a natural sturdiness that resists the strong winds and high tides of unwelcome calamity, and a long and significant tradition of participating fully in the affairs of this

area, of our state and of our nation.

The contributions that the Daniels family have made to North Carolina and to our great nation are remarkable -- and you deserve the pride that we all share in.

The work and service of your family call to mind what Paul of Tarsus wrote after his life was changed on the road to Damascus:

"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Conformity has never been a trait of any Daniels I've ever met -- rather the family creed has been for transformation -- a reaching for something that is greater, working to make ideals reality, a willingness to apply both muscle power and mind power to the determination to make life for all people, for all families, something better than it was yesterday.

For 47 years, the individuals who make up this great clan have been coming together.

I am sure -- I know -- that when you get together, you talk about the weather, the crops, the

fishing, the children who are growing up.

You share the personal stories of joy and anguish, of success and failure in small endeavors, and large.

But knowing you here today, and the legacy of concern left to you by Melvin, Sr., and Josephus, your thoughts and discussions also turn to the great tides of change that have swept over our state and nation.

The present-day tide of our affairs makes us wonder: What IS our tomorrow to be?

We deal with that question every day in Washington, just as you do here on our Outer Banks.

A listing of just a few of the issues on our minds is enough:

-- An inflation rate that's running close to 12 percent;

-- Gasoline prices -- and lines in some places -- that's like a torch to inflation;

-- The price of housing and food that keeps climbing out of sight;

-- A fragile truce between Israel and her Arab neighbors that seems to absolutely defy a reasonable and peaceful conclusion;

-- The nation's third largest auto-maker, Chrysler, turning to the federal government to avoid bankruptcy;

-- Uncertainties about a President's leadership capability;

-- People dying by the thousands in the open sea as they attempt to escape Vietnam, and no place to go even if they reach another shore.

-- Concerns about our national security,
within the context of an arms limitation agreement
with a long-time adversary, the Soviet Union;

These are just a few of the items on our
national agenda.

These problems, and others, clash with what
we hope our state and our nation can and will be.

To resolve these questions, to bridge the gap
between what is and what might be, takes courage to
face the truth, strength to right the wrong, and a
willingness to make sacrifices, at times, to help

our weak grow strong, and our strong to grow great.

It takes a self-confidence about ourselves,
personally, and as a country.

And self-confidence, in the words of Samuel
Johnson, is the "first requisite of great undertakings."

It's the kind of self-confidence that members
of this family have personified for generations.

A self-confidence that demands that we stick
to our quest for the best.

It is an acknowledgement that mind and soul, while it can be affected by physical time and space and condition, is not captive of flesh and blood.

Thus, Benjamin Franklin, an editor whose mind was never quite satisfied to leave well enough alone, built a stove and flew a kite on the way to becoming a universal patriot and statesman.

Thomas Edison, who took the lesson of Franklin's kite, and gave a new meaning for the word "light".

Henry Ford had another idea which he turned into an engine -- an engine placed on an assembly line, given the ungodly name of Model T, and changed the course of American movement.

The Wright Brothers brought their idea -- and new-fangled contraption -- to our own shores, and proved once and for all that man can fly.

George Washington Carver -- born a slave but free of mental chains, picked up the lowly soybean, and changed some ideas about food as well as human dignity.

Helen Keller proved that people can see without sight, that people can hear without hearing, and that people can influence without speaking.

And in dying, Brian Piccolo gave new meaning to life for his teammates -- and ultimately to the millions who wept on seeing the "Song" his life inspired.

And the sons and daughters of Josephus and Melvin, Sr., took the lessons of their fathers at heart, and today a newspaper and a state senate and your enterprises here all bear that strong and sturdy

imprint.

The spirit of a Thomas Edison, the self-confidence of a Jonathan Daniels, the service of a Melvin Daniels -- all reflect souls which refuse to be satisfied with the backwash of current tides of trouble.

This may be called a reunion of people.

In fact, it is a celebration of spirit and confidence held sacred and secure by a family, by our state and by our nation.

Vicki Carr, the singer, had a record out a couple of years ago called "Reflections".

It had a nice melody, but what was really exciting were the words.

One line went this way: "Doing something for someone else, isn't really for someone else -- It does twice as much for you, as something you do -- just for yourself -- "

"-- and everything you do reflects on you."

I am pleased to be here and to share in your reflections.

Thank you.