

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN

FEBRUARY 12, 1980

CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD BANQUET

TOAST TO JESSE HELMS

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD BANQUET. KATIE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS EVENT AND WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WHEN WE HEARD THAT THIS YEAR MY COLLEAGUE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE WOULD BE HONORED.

I ASSUMED THAT BECAUSE JESSE IS A POLITICIAN, WHETHER HE WANTS TO ADMIT IT OR NOT, THAT A LOT OF POLITICAL JOKES WOULD BE TOLD TONIGHT. I DECIDED NOT TO TRY TO TELL ANY SINCE SOMEONE TOLD ME RECENTLY THAT THE TROUBLE WITH POLITICAL JOKES IS THAT SOMETIMES THEY GET ELECTED. AND I'M NOT MUCH OF JOKE TELLER ANYWAY.

BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, YOU ARE HONORING AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN TONIGHT. TWICE HE HAS WON THE VOTE OF NORTH CAROLINIANS AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LEADING CONSERVATIVE VOICES IN OUR NATION. YOU KNOW

WHAT A CONSERVATIVE IS-- THAT'S SOMEONE WHO FIGHTS TOOTH AND NAIL TO PRESERVE TODAY WHAT THE LIBERALS OF YESTERDAY FOUGHT TOOTH AND NAIL TO CREATE. OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD A CONSERVATIVE IS. I'M REALLY NOT SURE ABOUT THESE LABELS WE POLITICIANS SOMETIMES GET.

AS FOR ME, I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF A MODERATE, AND THEN I WOKE UP THE OTHER DAY AND DISCOVERED THAT THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION HAD RATED ME THE MOST CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRAT IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE. I WAS SORT OF WORRIED ABOUT IT UNTIL I DISCOVERED THAT SOME OF MY DETRACTORS WERE PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT IT TOO. SO I DECIDED TO LET IT WORRY THEM AND NOT LET IT WORRY ME.

IT IS A PLEASURE SERVING IN THE SENATE WITH JESSE HELMS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT LABEL EITHER OF US WEARS.