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POLITICAL VALUES IN A CHANGING WORLD

This is an opportune time to talk about politics. We have just completed the primary in this state, and we are all excited about the national presidential race and the remaining primaries. In a presidential election year, people desire to make their preferences known. Issues are aired, positions taken, and the political fortunes of men and women hang on how well they register their opinions with the people.

It is exhilarating to me to be a part of this process, and I encourage you, the officers of the Young Democrats Club, to take an active part in the political process.

As you know, there are many people in our society who distrust politicians, and a few bad apples in the barrel have given us all a smell of corruption. Yet the entire barrel is not rotten.

Nor are we as stupid and passive as many people think. There is a line from the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, Pinafore, that most people seem to think applies to politics:

I always voted at my party's call,
And never thought of thinking for myself at all!
I thought so little, they rewarded me
By making me the ruler of the Queen's Navee!

I would like to see the ruler of the Queen's Navee avoid thinking in present-day political office. The issues that we face each day in the Senate are numerous and complex. Nearly every day I attend hearings at the Banking Committee and at the Armed Services Committee. Banking and Defense are incredibly complex. Yet there is the opportunity to make decisions that are both creative and that save our taxpayers money. Just the other day in the Banking Committee I helped form a compromise on the Urban Mass Transit Bill that will save the taxpayers \$1.4 billion.

Much of the work that I do is never reported by the press, and many people think that my recorded votes are the only indication of my job performance. But committee hearings, bill mark-ups, and negotiating with colleagues is the heart of the political process.

Part of the job is discovering ways to work with colleagues who disagree with me. One builds a reputation over time, and I believe that my forthright way of dealing with issues has won me respect. I have a consistent ideology, and my colleagues realize that on certain issues I will be absolutely immovable whereas on other issues there is room for compromise.

Let me outline to you some of my philosophical principles that have served me so well over the years.

First, I believe in preserving the traditional values of our country. I rely on my understanding of history for this, for without knowing how the government was formed, without understanding the things that we fought for in the Revolution, without reading the Federalist Papers on separation of powers and checks and balances, without reading the Tenth Amendment, I would not be able to function in this regard.

By the way, I find that many of my colleagues lack this historical depth. Indeed, on many issues they only understand the politics of a certain bill; they rely on a brief statement prepared by staff. When I ask some question about the historical background of the issue, I often find that they know nothing about it.

I urge you constantly to read the history of your country, for only by understanding the past will you be able to function in the present--and only by this grasp of the past will you be able to project into the future.

Second, I believe that it is imperative that we have a just government. I spent six years as the state's Attorney General, and I attempted to insure that all people secure justice. I am proud of that record.

Third, I believe in individual rights. Nothing is more dear, in my opinion, than to be able to express our opinions. We separate ourselves from totalitarian governments by our freedom of expression. We also need to be secure in our homes from abuses that are so common in police states. I have heard a great deal of testimony regarding abuses by the FBI and the CIA, and I have sought to harness these agencies while preserving their legitimate role.

Fourth, I believe in fiscal responsibility. For years I have been advocating a balanced budget, have tried to trim the fat from our budget, have tried to bring the bureaucracy under control. This is a difficult task, one that is exceedingly complex. This week we have been debating the budget for 1981, and we have decided to bring the budget into balance. This is a milestone for Congress, and I trust that this new wave of fiscal responsibility will endure. It is time that we stopped passing on debts to our children.

Fifth, I think that limited federal programs are necessary. The Constitution spells out the jurisdiction of the federal government. This sphere has grown over the years, and during the New Deal a giant bureaucracy was born and has continued to grow. Now it has reached the point where it is often more oppressive than helpful. With the new budget restrictions, I hope that we can discover exactly which programs have grown too fat and which are useful.

Sixth, I believe in a strong defense. I have been alarmed at the way our military has deteriorated over the last decade. We need to put new vitality and strength into the military. I have advocated registration as the first step in making our military prepared. I have also backed programs that would strengthen our defense, from the B 1 bomber to the Cruise missile. My colleagues have come to realize that our position as a world leader depends on the strength that we project throughout the world.

Seventh, I believe in preserving our rural heritage. I am a member of the Congressional Task Force on the Family Farm. The family farm is a great American tradition, and it is one that is in danger. When the 1981 farm bill is debated next year, I hope that we consider the structure of agriculture

of agriculture and make constructive laws that will preserve this vital part of our tradition. Unless something is done to keep small farmers on the land, there is a real danger that our rural communities will disappear, that the land will end up in the hands of a few large concerns, and that agriculture as we have known it will disappear.

These are the cornerstones of my ideology. When any issue confronts me, I can fall back on these principles, and I can examine the problem both in the context of the past and also in the context of my evolving thoughts on these issues.

As you go out into the world of politics, I urge you to form a political philosophy. It is not enough to read polls and discover what the majority wants. It is imperative that you understand issues and project leadership, that you voice the hopes of your generation and project a dream for the future. Your success will be tied to your wisdom and your imagination.

So, I urge you to study your history, study your party's tradition, and study the issues that confront our nation. If you have a firm grasp of these issues, and if you have wisdom and imagination, then I predict that you will have a long and successful life in politics.