

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN
North Carolina Forestry Association
Annual Meeting
Southern Pines, North Carolina
October 10, 1980

FORESTRY AND DEFENSE ISSUES

It is a great pleasure to be here in Southern Pines for the North Carolina Forestry Association's Annual meeting, and this is a lovely spot to hold it. My only regret is that I can't stick around to enjoy the the people and participate in the recreation here. But, as you may have heard, I am slightly preoccupied at the moment.

Your theme for this meeting, "Tar Heel Forestry--Bigger and Better in the 80s!" deserves applause. Tar Heel forestry will be bigger and better, not only because it should be but also because it must be. You people in this room realize this, and you will not rest until our forests are yielding more wood and being replenished. Like previous generations, we will not be satisfied unless we can leave a better world for our children and grandchildren. And those generations of Americans yet to be born will need housing. We must plan for the future.

As you know, the South leads all other regions of the country both in timber production and in employment in the lumber

and wood products industries. I see every reason to think that this will be even more the case in the future. As you know, the South is experiencing an above average growth in population and income. This can only mean that the demand for new housing, where 33 percent of the lumber used in this country goes, will keep increasing. In fact, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that the increased demands for forest products over the remainder of this century will necessitate almost a four-fold increase in the harvest from our Southern forests--from slightly over 4 billion cubic feet in the mid-1960s to over 16 billion cubic feet in the year 2000.

For one thing, that means that we must make better use of the forest lands that we have, both of our private forests and of our state and federal forests. We must increase the use of our National Forests in North Carolina. George Olsen, the National Forest Supervisor here in North Carolina, tells me that a full third of the National Forest lands in the Southern Appalachian Region is available for multiple-use management but is presently inaccessible. Just the simple lack of logging roads prevents the use of what is estimated to be 1.8 million acres in these forests spread over North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Let me give you the most recent and best news from Washington for the forest industry. It involves legislation that all of you probably know about. I am confident that in the next few days, the President will sign the Recreational Boating and Safety and Facilities Improvement Act, H.R. 4310. That you should be interested in a boating bill is not as strange as it sounds. As you may know, the bill was considered in the Senate about a month ago and an important Forest Preservation Amendment was added on the Senate floor.

The Forest Preservation Amendment that passed the Congress and is soon to be signed by the President basically does two things. It provides a tax credit and tax deductions spread over 7 years for reforestation expenditures up to \$10,000 per year. This tax incentive is for the private owner of forest lands who replants or makes timber stand improvements.

The private ownership of timber lands constitute 60 percent of the commercial timberland in this country. It has been estimated that \$10,000 would be enough to replant about 100 acres of land, or it would allow, on the other hand, the precommercial thinning of 150 acres. Of course, these figures will vary from state to state, and from region to region in our own state. But it seems to me that this tax relief is

desperately needed to encourage the more efficient use of such a vital resource. Up to 25 million acres of our nation's private forest land needs reforestation.

At the same time, this bill will establish a Reforestation Trust Fund in the Department of Treasury. The proceeds from this Trust Fund will be used to reforest and make stand improvements in our National Forests. Over a million acres of our National Forests stand denuded and need replanting, and another 2 million need the improvement that these Trust Fund dollars can provide. At least since 1930, the Congress has been trying to assure the adequate reforestation of our Federal lands, but always the actual appropriation for this purpose seemed to fall short. The Trust Fund will be derived from import duties on plywood and lumber, and it could bring in up to \$30 million per year. It is hoped that our National Forest lands can be reforested by 1985, at which time the Trust Fund will be dissolved and the money returned to the general revenue account of the Treasury.

In short, we in Washington are trying to give you the tools with which to do a better job. And I know that you will do it. I could go on praising our forest products people and suggesting ways to meet future demands for wood, but I was told that you knew all about forests and had rather hear a bit about something else.

There are many issues today that concern us, and many of them are crucial to our welfare. Yet, no single issue is more important than the defense of our nation. We must defend not only the plants, cities, farms, and people of our country, but also our democratic way of life. Unless we do this, the other programs that our government operates will be lost.

In that connection, I would like to make a few comments on our defense posture and review some of our programs.

As you know, I am a member of the Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Procurement and Reprogramming. In this position, I come in constant contact with new military concepts and new weapons systems. And I can tell you with conviction that this country is still the strongest country in the world. There has been a lot said about our defense capability, and, of course, there are improvements that we can and will make, but our men and materiel are the best on the planet. We can defend our cities and our way of life.

Indeed, our sophistication in weapons is now almost in the "Star Wars" category. Laser beams, Cruise Missles, silent submarines, spy satellites, and neutron bombs all give

our arsenal strength and versatility. These innovative weapons insure that we can deter any invasion or any threat to our interests throughout the world.

In many ways, however, I am old fashioned when it comes to war. I have never lost sight of the role of soldiers, sailors, marines, and pilots. In that regard, I supported the B-1 bomber program on every Senate vote. Only after President Carter made the decision, which Congress had asked him to make, to stop the B-1 program did I join with Senators John Stennis, Sam Nunn, James Eastland, Herman Talmadge and others in taking this money out of the budget. At that point, it was useless to leave \$1.4 billion in the budget to procure a bomber that was not going to be part of our arsenal.

But I did not give up on the manned bomber concept. Indeed, I immediately began to look for an alternative aircraft that would be able to penetrate enemy defenses. After consulting with General Ellis and others in the Air Force, I now believe that a modified version of the FB 111 will not only be less expensive than the B-1, but will also be more sophisticated and effective. I pushed this concept this year, and I will continue to support the development of the FB 111.

Because I know that an Army, a defense force, is linked to men, I have sponsored registration for several years. In 1978, I offered an amendment to begin registration, but at that time it was defeated. Last summer it carried, and I am proud of the way our young men registered. Those who think that our youth are apathetic simply underestimate American patriotism.

Along that line, I want to stress that I think that people are willing to sacrifice for their country. Common sense dictates that we all should be willing to serve our country, for it has given us the opportunity to enjoy the highest standard of living in the world. We hear quite a bit of gloomy talk about the state of the nation, but when one looks closely at our way of life, we have much to be thankful for.

Recently it has come to our attention in a most graphic way that our Titan II missiles are becoming obsolete. Let me stress, however, that these missiles are still capable of being fired accurately at their targets.

At the same time, we are now developing the MX Missile system. The vulnerability of the Titan II comes from the fact that it is stationary. A direct hit would put it out

of commission. The MX Missile System is mobile. The enemy would never know exactly where the missiles are, and thus it would be impossible to score a direct hit on all of them. The MX will insure that our land-based missiles are a crucial part of the Triad concept of land-based missiles, submarines, and manned penetrating bombers. It amazes me that critics of our strategic concept forget how awesome this Triad concept is. There is simply no way that the enemy could incapacitate our nuclear striking force.

Also, our strategic concept is based on defense. We have the tradition in this country that we would never begin a war, would never fire the first shot. Thus, we must be able to respond to attack. That is why it is so important that our land-based missiles are able to withstand a first strike. That is why our submarines lurk in the deep waters hidden from enemy sight. That is why we must have manned bombers that can be controlled by human beings and deployed wherever necessary. All of this adds up to a potent arsenal, one that will continue to deter any enemy from attacking us.

We are also developing a Rapid Deployment Force to respond to emergency situations. We will continue to strengthen this concept so that we can respond with quickness and thoroughness in any situation.

The present crisis in the Middle East raises new challenges, and I am convinced that our leaders are developing new concepts that will allow us to have a presence in the Middle East to protect our interests there.

There is one point that I want to drive home, and that is, the world situation is constantly changing. People who oversimplify military problems simply don't understand how complex the world situation is today. That is why we must constantly be open to new concepts in defense.

Having served on the Armed Services Committee, I have kept us with these new concepts. More important, I am vitally interested in procuring weapons that will serve us well.

As I mentioned at the outset, there are many other problems that we face today. Yet without a strong defense, there will be no American way of life to enjoy. Because of that fact, I think that defense is one of the most important aspects of our national policy. I have enjoyed taking part in planning for our defense, and I have also enjoyed learning about new weapons systems. With this experience, I think that I am able to make valuable contributions to our national defense.