

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN
TO: NC ASSOC. BROADCASTERS
ASHEVILLE, N.C.
DATE: TUESDAY, OCT. 8, 1974

I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO DISCUSS FOR A FEW MINUTES MY CANDIDACY FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION BECAUSE OUR NATION HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH REQUIRE OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. HOPEFULLY, THE CONGRESS WILL TAKE SOME EFFECTIVE ACTION TO CURB INFLATION AND RESTORE ECONOMIC STABILITY PRIOR TO ADJOURNING THIS SESSION. BUT MUCH OF THE WORK UNDOUBTEDLY WILL HAVE TO BE DONE NEXT YEAR BY A NEW CONGRESS AND AS THE UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA, I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE TEAM WHICH PUTS THIS NATION BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK AGAIN.

THIS WILL TAKE A MAJOR LEGISLATIVE EFFORT, AND I BELIEVE MY EXPERIENCE ON THE STATE LEVEL WILL BE VALUABLE. I SERVED FOR FIVE TERMS IN THE STATE SENATE, INCLUDING ONE TERM AS PRESIDENT PRO TEM, THE SENATE'S HIGHEST OFFICE. I THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW LAWS ARE MADE AND HOW YOU BEST GO ABOUT REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECT YOU.

DURING 24 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AS CLERK OF COURT IN HARNETT COUNTY, AS A STATE SENATOR AND AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, I HAVE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE STATE, VISITING SMALL TOWNS AND CITIES ALIKE—TALKING WITH PEOPLE FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST AND WORKING WITH THEM TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE FACED US OVER THE YEARS. I BELIEVE I KNOW THEIR CONCERNS AND FRANKLY, I'M PROUD OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WHICH WORKING TOGETHER, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE.

WE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN PROVIDING SERVICES AND IMPROVING FACILITIES FOR THOSE AMONG US WHO NEED OUR HELP MOST—THE MENTALLY ILL, RETARDED CHILDREN AND THE HANDICAPPED. WE WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND OUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE. AND WE DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING WHICH IS THE ENVY OF THE NATION.

AS ATTORNEY GENERAL WE MADE "CONSUMER PROTECTION" A HOUSEHOLD WORD IN NORTH CAROLINA AND REPRESENTATION OF CONSUMERS BEFORE STATE RATE-MAKING AGENCIES AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE. I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT TAX PAYERS HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD WHEN DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE WHICH AFFECT THEIR POCKETBOOKS.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF CONCERNED CITIZENS, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, WE UPGRADED THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IMPROVING ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, CREATING A DRUG UNIT AND AN ORGANIZED CRIME SECTION, AND EXPANDING GREATLY LABORATORY FACILITIES.

AND I COULD GO ON AND ON.

BUT LET ME SUM UP BY SAYING THIS: IN GOVERNMENT, AS IN EVERY OTHER WALK OF LIFE, EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED THROUGH DOING IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

I OFFER TO THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA 24 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND A RECORD WHICH I AM PROUD TO STAND ON. AND I WANT TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND BE A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR NORTH CAROLINA AND ITS CITIZENS.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE THERE. INFLATION MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. WE MUST END DEFICIT SPENDING AND BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

OUR TAX SYSTEM CONTAINS GLARING INEQUITIES. POOR AND MIDDLE-INCOME WAGE EARNERS ARE CARRYING MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF THE TAX LOAD WHILE OTHERS SLIP THROUGH TAX LOOPHOLES. THESE LOOPHOLES MUST BE CLOSED IN ORDER TO MAKE TAX FAIRNESS A REALITY FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

THE UNITED STATES MUST MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE ENERGY FIELD, BRING GASOLINE AND FUEL PRICES DOWN AND PUT AN END TO INTERNATIONAL BLACKMAIL OF THIS NATION BY THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT ALL OUR PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE AND HOSPITAL FACILITIES WHEN NEEDED WITHOUT PERSONAL, FINANCIAL DISASTER. ENACTMENT OF A WORKABLE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL SHOULD RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY NEXT YEAR.

THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE AMOUNT RETIRED CITIZENS DRAWING SOCIAL SECURITY CAN EARN WITHOUT BEING PENALIZED IS WOEFULLY OUT OF DATE. WE MUST HELP EASE THE FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF OLDER ADULTS IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, OUR FARM PEOPLE, STRUGGLING FOR THEIR VERY LIVELIHOODS AND THE HOME BUILDING INDUSTRY, SEVERELY CRIPPLED BY THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM THE SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

THESE ARE REAL NEEDS. THESE ARE REAL CHALLENGES.

YOU KNOW, DURING THE PRIMARY I WAS CRITICIZED FOR STATING ON ONE OCCASION THAT I DID NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS. WELL, I'M NOT ASHAMED TO REPEAT THAT STATEMENT TODAY.

I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, AND I WON'T PRETEND TO. BUT I DO HAVE THE SORT OF EXPERIENCE AND DETERMINATION WHICH I THINK IS REQUIRED TO HELP FIND THEM.

QUITE SIMPLY, THAT IS WHAT I OFFER TO THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA. AND I HOPE I WILL HAVE THEIR SUPPORT ON NOVEMBER 5.