

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN

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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. THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW ME AT ALL, KNOW THAT I HAVE NEVER AVOIDED CONTROVERSY.

I USED TO KEEP A STATEMENT UNDER THE GLASS TOP ON MY DESK IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. IT READ SIMPLY: "STREAMS BECOME CROOKED BY FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE".

I BELIEVE THAT, AND I SUPPOSE THAT IS THE REASON I HAVE NEVER REALLY FEARED CONTROVERSY OR TRIED TO AVOID IT. I HAVE A LOT OF FAITH IN PEOPLE AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SAY WHAT I FEEL, STAND UP FOR WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT, AND THEN LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY. THAT'S THE WAY WE DO THINGS WHERE I COME FROM, AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT PEOPLE WANT IN A PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN THIS DAY AND TIME.

FRANKLY, I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN EXPLORING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE, AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN STARTING NOW.

SO I OFFER TO THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA 24 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND A RECORD OF STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT WHICH I AM PROUD TO STAND ON. AND I WANT TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND BE A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE VOICE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL 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.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH A TAX SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A MAN MAKING OVER \$100,000 A YEAR FROM INVESTMENTS TO PAY NO TAXES.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE WORRYING ABOUT THE FLOW OF AMERICAN DOLLARS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, OUR TAX LAWS MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRIES TO BUILD FACTORIES AND INVEST ABROAD THAN AT HOME.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR TAX FAIRNESS FOR SINGLE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STILL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE TREMENDOUS COST OF MAINTAINING AN INDEPENDENT HOUSEHOLD.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN WE USE TAX LAWS TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN OIL EXPLORATION WHEN BILLIONS OF AMERICAN DOLLARS ARE FLOWING OVERSEAS TO FOREIGN OIL POWERS ENDANGERING THE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF OUR COUNTRY.

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.

IT MAY BE CONTROVERSIAL TO TALK ABOUT IT BUT I'M GOING TO BECAUSE I BELIEVE THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR A COUNTRY WITH THE RESOURCES OF THIS GREAT NATION NOT TO BRING ADEQUATE HEALTH MANPOWER TO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE. THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES AND HOSPITAL CARE WITHOUT ECONOMICALLY DESTROYING FAMILIES AND THEIR CHANCES TO SOME DAY HAVE A FEW OF THE EXTRAS IN LIFE.

I'M TOLD IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION AND MEDICAL MANPOWER BILLS NOW PENDING BEFORE THE CONGRESS WILL BE ACTED ON THIS SESSION. BUT THERE WILL BE NEW BILLS NEXT YEAR AND AS A SENATOR, AS YOUR SENATOR, I WILL SUPPORT LEGISLATION BRINGING GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TOGETHER IN A

PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE AND WORKABLE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM. I WILL SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL HELP DIRECT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO THE AREAS OF OUR STATE AND NATION WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED MOST AND IF DOING SO MEANS THAT I MUST STAND AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM, THEN IT WILL JUST HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

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 HIGH INTEREST RATES HAVE RAISED THE COST OF MORTGAGE MONEY AND HAS ALMOST WRECKED THE HOUSING INDUSTRY. NOW, UNLESS A PERSON HAS INCOME OF \$18,000 A YEAR HE CAN FORGET ABOUT PURCHASING A \$30,000 HOME. THIS TAKES THREE-FOURTHS OF OUR FAMILIES OUT OF THE HOUSING MARKET.

AS A FARMER, I UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MAN WHO MAKES HIS LIVING FROM THE SOIL.

I ALSO KNOW THAT PEOPLE WITH INFLUENCE IN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT FRIENDS OF THE TOBACCO FARMER.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ HAS TRIED TO END THE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR TOBACCO AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE WEINBERGER TWICE WROTE CONGRESS ASKING THAT TOBACCO FARMERS GET

NO PRIORITY IN THE GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL ALLOCATIONS WHEN THOSE WERE BEING ALLOCATED LAST YEAR.

THESE ARE REAL NEEDS. THESE ARE REAL CHALLENGES. AND THE NEW SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA WILL HAVE NO EASY TASK AS HE TRIES TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THIS COUNTRY.

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 WHICH I THINK IS REQUIRED TO HELP FIND THEM.

I DO HAVE THE DETERMINATION TO FIGHT FOR THE THINGS I BELIEVE IN, AND THE PEOPLE I BELIEVE IN -- THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

QUITE SIMPLY, THAT IS WHAT I OFFER TO THE VOTERS OF THIS STATE, AND I HOPE I WILL HAVE YOUR SUPPORT ON NOVEMBER 5TH.