

SPEECH BY: ROBERT MORGAN  
TO: FORT BRAGG GOVERNMENT WORKER'S UNION  
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1974

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.

I WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT EACH OF YOU HAS A VERY IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN SOLVING A PROBLEM WHICH I HAVE PUT AT THE TOP OF MY LIST: RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT AND MAKING GOVERNMENT ONCE MORE A TRUSTED SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THE MISCONDUCT OF HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY IN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, HAS BROUGHT GOVERNMENT INTO WIDESPREAD DISREPUTE. IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO CONVINCING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AGAIN OF THE INTEGRITY OF GOVERNMENT AND THOSE WHO MAKE AND ADMINISTER THE LAWS OF THIS LAND.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE FIRST STEP BACK MUST BE THE ELECTION OF PERSONS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY WHOSE DAILY LIVES INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AND WHOSE CHARACTER IS ABOVE REPROACH. AND THOSE ELECTED, IN TURN, MUST NOT FORGET AS THEY OFTEN DO, TO REQUIRE THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS OF THOSE THEY SELECT TO SERVE WITH THEM.

BUT THOUGH IT IS THOSE IN "HIGH PLACES" WHO ARE MOST OFTEN SINGLED OUT FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, IT IS PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO LABOR DAY BY DAY OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT WHO GET TARRED WITH THE WIDE BRUSH OF PUBLIC CRITICISM ABOUT "GOVERNMENT " WHEN THINGS GO WRONG.

YOU REALIZE FAR BETTER THAN I HOW TRUE THIS IS.

AND YOU ALSO KNOW HOW SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THERE IS JUST NOTHING YOU INDIVIDUALLY CAN DO ABOUT IT.

BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU TODAY AND I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. AND IT'S REALLY KIND OF SIMPLE.

YOU AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LIKE YOU ACROSS THIS NATION ARE THE PRIMARY CONTACT WHICH THE PUBLIC HAS WITH GOVERNMENT. THEY DON'T DEAL ON A DAILY BASIS WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDES, SENATORS, CABINET MEMBERS OR EVEN THEIR ASSISTANTS. BUT THEY DO DEAL IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY WITH THE EMPLOYEES AT POPE FIELD, PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL IRS OFFICE OR THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

AS FAR AS THESE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED YOU ARE "THE GOVERNMENT" NOT GERALD FORD, CASPER WINEBERGER, EARL BUTZ OR EDWIN MUSKIE. NOT THE CONGRESS, OR THE LABOR DEPARTMENT OR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THEIR CONTACT WITH YOU IS WHAT WILL MOLD THEIR OPINION OF WHAT GOVERNMENT IS LIKE — WHETHER IT IS WARM AND RESPONSIVE; WHETHER IT IS COLD AND UNSYMPATHETIC; WHETHER IT IS EFFICIENT OR WHETHER IT IS WASTEFUL.

IF THEY HAVE HAD A GOOD EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH YOU, THEY CAN STILL RETAIN CONFIDENCE EVEN WHEN THEY SEE THAT SOMEONE MORE IN THE PUBLIC EYE HAS BETRAYED HIS TRUST.

SO YOU HAVE A BIG RESPONSIBILITY. AND YOU HAVE A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO TURN PUBLIC OPINION AROUND AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS BY GOING THE EXTRA MILE EACH TIME YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO DEAL WITH A TAXPAYER AND OFFICIALLY REPRESENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS ONE OTHER THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP TURN THIS COUNTRY AROUND AND PUT IT BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK AGAIN. THERE IS ONE OTHER THING YOU CAN DO TO MAKE INTEGRITY A PART OF THE FORMULA FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT IN THESE UNITED STATES.

YOU CAN GO TO THE POLLS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, AND VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO YOU BELIEVE WILL, IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD, "SERVE" IF ELECTED; BE A CREDIT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS NATION AND, IN TURN, MAKE YOU PROUD TO BE A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

I WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY IF I DID NOT HOPE YOU WOULD CAST YOUR VOTES FOR ME.

I WOULD NOT HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK YOU TO VOTE FOR ME IF I WERE NOT PREPARED TO PROMISE THAT KIND OF SERVICE TO YOU AND EVERY OTHER VOTER OF THIS STATE. AND I BELIEVE MY RECORD SHOWS THAT I KEEP MY PROMISES.

I KNOW THAT YOU, LIKE MANY OTHER GROUPS I HAVE APPEARED BEFORE, HAVE SOME CONCERNS WHICH ARE PECULIAR TO YOUR SITUATION AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU.

AS TO THESE MATTERS, I ASK YOU TO LOOK AT MY RECORD BECAUSE I THINK YOU CAN BEST JUDGE WHAT A MAN WILL DO IN THE FUTURE BY WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST,

I SERVED FIVE TERMS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA SENATE, ONE AS PRESIDENT PRO TEM. DURING THAT TIME THE JOURNAL WILL SHOW THAT I SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF STATE EMPLOYEES TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT AND RECEIVE JUST COMPENSATION FOR THEIR WORK. I CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY THE TEACHING PROFESSION BECAUSE I FELT IT WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE AND THOSE SERVING IN OUR CLASSROOMS.

I BELIEVE THE EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH I HEADED FOR ALMOST SIX YEARS, WILL TELL YOU THAT NO MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE SPENT MORE TIME AT THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING AND WITH BUDGET AND PERSONNEL OFFICIALS WORKING ON THEIR BEHALF THAN I DID.

I'M PROUD OF THAT FACT BECAUSE I THINK THAT IT HAD VERY POSITIVE RESULTS. EMPLOYEES WHO FEEL THEY ARE BEING ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR WORK AND TREATED AS THE PROFESSIONALS THEY ARE, SIMPLY ARE BETTER EMPLOYEES. THEY WORK HARDER, ARE MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE EFFECTIVE.

IN ADDITION, AS ATTORNEY GENERAL I WAS THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AT EVERY LEVEL. FROM THE

DAY I FIRST STARTED CAMPAIGNING FOR THAT OFFICE TILL THE DAY I RESIGNED (AND ACTUALLY SINCE) I TRAVELLED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA CALLING FOR BETTER PAY, REASONABLE WORKING HOURS, IMPROVED GRINGE BENEFITS AND A REALISTIC RETIRMENT PROGRAM FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL IN OUR STATE.

TO SUM UP, I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT IN TERMS OF CAPABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION TO TASK, YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR IN GOVERNMENT JUST AS YOU DO IN BUSINESS.

AS I SAID A MOMENT AGO, I KNOW THIS GROUP HAS SOME SPECIAL INTERESTS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY ON YOUR MINDS. BUT I KNOW ALSO THAT YOU SHARE MANY OF THE SAME CONCERNS THAT PEOPLE THROUGHOUT NORTH CAROLINA ARE TALKING ABOUT AND WORRYING ABOUT,

LET'S TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND LOOK AT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE FACING US AS WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE POLLS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 -- A LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK FROM NOW.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE SKYROCKETING INFLATION AND THE GENERAL STATE OF THE ECONOMY IS THE FIRST CONCERN OF ALMOST EVERY AMERICAN TODAY.

AND WE MUST WASTE NO TIME IN ATTACKING IT BECAUSE IT IS ONE THING THAT HAS CAUSED FEAR TO GRIP OUR PEOPLE.

THE HOUSEWIFE DOESN'T NEED A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MONTHLY REPORT TO TELL HER THAT PRICES ARE HIGHER IN THE GROCERY STORE. SHE TAKES HER OWN PERSONAL SURVEY AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK WHEN SHE SHOPS FOR THE FAMILY'S MEALS.

THE ELDERLY COUPLE LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY DOESN'T NEED TO SEE THAT THE PRICE INDEX HAS RISEN. THEY KNOW BECAUSE THEIR MONTHLY CHECK DOESN'T GO AS FAR AS IT USED TO TOWARD PAYING FOR THEIR BARE ESSENTIALS.

THE PERSON WHO HAS TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TOLD THAT THE COSTS OF HEALTH CARE IS HIGHER. THE INFORMATION WILL BE CONVEYED IN STARTLING SIMPLICITY WHEN THE BILL IS PRESENTED.

SO WE MUST USE EVERY MEANS AT OUR COMMAND TO HALT THIS SPIRAL. THE AMERICAN CONSUMER CAN STAND ONLY SO MUCH.

AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE, I'M NOT PROMISING MIRACLES AND I DON'T BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE ARE LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE WORKER.

I AM PROMISING HARD WORK AND A DETERMINATION TO HELP TURN THIS COUNTRY AROUND. AND I AM OFFERING TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT, BOTH AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL, AS MY REASON FOR THINKING I HAVE SOME OF THE SKILLS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO HELP DO THAT. I THINK THAT YOU, PROBABLY BETTER THAN ANY OTHER GROUP I'VE TALKED WITH, CAN APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF THAT EXPERIENCE.

IT IS ENCOURAGING TO ME AS A FISCAL CONSERVATIVE TO HEAR SO MUCH FAVORABLE TALK THESE DAYS ABOUT ENDING DEFICIT SPENDING AND BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

I, FOR ONE, APPLAUD PRESIDENT FORD FOR SUGGESTING IN HIS NATIONALLY TELEVISED SPEECH NOT LONG AGO THAT WE PUT OUR FEDERAL FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER.

HOWEVER, I MUST SAY THAT I DIFFER WITH HIM ON SOME OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS RECENT ECONOMIC PACKAGE, ESPECIALLY HIS TAX PROPOSALS.

I HAVE BEEN SAYING THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN THAT OUR TAX SYSTEM NEEDS REFORMING IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE TAX FAIRNESS. POOR AND MIDDLE INCOME WAGE EARNERS FOR TOO LONG HAVE BEEN CARRYING TOO MUCH OF THE TAX BURDEN WHILE OTHERS HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH TAX LOOPHOLES. INSTEAD OF MOVING TO DISTRIBUTE THE TAX LOAD MORE EQUALLY, THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED TO HEAP AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THOSE ALREADY CARRYING THE MOST.

IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SURTAX AT ALL IT OUGHT TO FALL ON THOSE WHOSE BUDGETS HAVE NOT BEEN HIT AS HARD BY FOOD AND FUEL COSTS AS HAVE THE \$15,000 A-YEAR FAMILIES. \$25,000 WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC BUT FRANKLY I'M NOT GOING TO SUPPORT ANY SURTAX UNTIL WE PLUG SOME LOOPHOLES AND GET SOME FOLKS PAYING TAXES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DOING SO IN THE PAST.

CONSIDER THE FACT THAT THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REPORTED THAT IN 1972 THERE WERE 402 AMERICANS WHO MADE MORE THAN \$100,000 BUT PAID NO FEDERAL INCOME TAX.

AND THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO MADE OVER A MILLION DOLLARS IN 1973 AND PAID NO TAXES.

DOESN'T THAT SOUND AS IF SOME LOOPHOLES SHOULD BE CLOSED?

LET'S LOOK AT THE OIL COMPANIES, WHO INCIDENTALLY ARE REPORTING PROFITS WHICH HAVE INCREASED FROM 25 PERCENT TO 200 PERCENT OVER THOSE OF LAST YEAR, JUDGING FROM THE PRICES AT THE GAS PUMPS, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY.

IN 1973, THE NATION'S 19 LARGEST OIL COMPANIES EARNED PROFITS OF \$18 BILLION BEFORE TAXES, AND THEY PAID CORPORATE TAXES OF ONLY 6.5 PERCENT.

EXXON PAYS FEDERAL INCOME TAX AT THE RATE OF 6.5 PERCENT; TEXACO PAYS A 1.7 PERCENT RATE; AND MOBIL OIL'S RATE IS 1.3 PERCENT.

COMPARE THAT TO THE PERCENT OF AN AVERAGE SALARY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WITHHOLDS FROM YOUR PAYCHECK.

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING IN THAT SITUATION THAT SHOULD BE CORRECTED?

I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I BELIEVE SEVERAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS ARE SOUND, AND I SUPPORT THEM.

I WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO SEE HIM COME FORWARD WITH SOME RELIEF FOR THE HOMEBUILDING INDUSTRY. THEY HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT BY THE CREDIT CRUNCH AND SHORTAGES IN BUILDING MATERIALS. I ONLY WISH PRESIDENT FORD HAD GONE FURTHER TO MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE AND HELP DIRECT MORE PRIVATE CAPITAL INTO MORTGAGE LENDING INSTITUTIONS.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO TAKE PARTISAN POSITIONS ON A MATTER AS IMPORTANT AS SOLVING OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. I HAVE TRIED TO WEIGH EVERY PROPOSAL, REGARDLESS OF WHO SUGGESTED IT, ON THE BASIS OF MERIT.

AMERICA IS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, NOT PARTISANSHIP. THE PEOPLE WANT SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS, NOT POLITICAL SOLUTIONS.

THAT IS WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR ALSO. AND THAT IS WHY I AM RUNNING FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE.