

SPEECH BY SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
"SINGING ON THE MOUNTAIN"  
GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA  
JUNE 22, 1975

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY FOR THIS 51ST ANNUAL "SINGING ON THE MOUNTAIN." THIS IS ALWAYS A GREAT OCCASION AND I AM DELIGHTED TO BE SHARING IT WITH SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS, NOT ONLY FROM THIS AREA BUT THROUGHOUT NORTH CAROLINA AND OUR NEIGHBORING STATES.

YOU KNOW, EACH TIME I COME UP ON THE MOUNTAIN I BECOME MORE IMPRESSED WITH THE MAJESTY OF THE GRANDFATHER AND UNDERSTAND MORE AND MORE WHY THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SPENT YOUR LIVES HERE HAVE SUCH RESPECT AND SENTIMENT FOR IT.

TODAY THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF US HERE ENJOYING THE SINGING AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP. WE HAVE COME BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE FOUND ON THE MOUNTAIN, EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, THAT JUST CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE.

IT IS EASY TO BE CLOSE TO GOD ON THE GRANDFATHER; IT IS EASY TO FORGET FOR A LITTLE THE TROUBLES OF THE WORLD AS WE LISTEN TO THE MUSIC AND GET OUR SPIRITS BACK IN TUNE WITH GOD AND NATURE AND OUR FELLOWMAN.

IN A WORLD CONTINUOUSLY TORN BY STRIFE AND CONFLICT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND PEACE IN THE TRANQUIL MEADOWS ON THE GRANDFATHER.

IN A WORLD THAT MOVES SO FAST THAT WE OFTEN BECOME WEARY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND BENEATH THE TOWERING HARDWOODS WHICH COVER THESE SLOPES THE WILL TO CARRY ON, TO SEEK AND STRIVE ANEW.

GOD CREATED A MASTERPIECE WHEN HE CARVED OUT THE VALLEYS, MOLDED THE HILLS OF THIS REGION AND THEN PLACED THE GRANDFATHER HERE TO TOWER ABOVE THEM, ITS PROFILE OUTLINED AGAINST THE BLUE SKIES OF THE BLUE RIDGE.

WHEN WE OBSERVE THIS BEAUTY, WHEN WE EXPERIENCE THE TRANQUILITY OF THIS PLACE, SURELY EACH OF US CAN JOIN WITH THE PSALMIST IN SAYING, "LORD BY THY FAVOR THOU HAST MADE MY MOUNTAIN TO STAND STRONG."

WE NEED STRENGTH IN OUR DAY.

WE NEED THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH WHICH COMES FROM UNWAVERING TRUST IN GOD, DEVOTION TO CHURCH AND SUPPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION AT HOME AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WE NEED THE PERSONAL STRENGTH WHICH COMES FROM RESPECT FOR ONESELF AS A PERSON, CONCERN FOR ONE'S HEALTH AND WELL BEING AND DEVOTION TO PERSONAL HABITS WHICH MAKE OUR BODIES STRONG AND FIT.

WE NEED THE NATIONAL STRENGTH WHICH COMES FROM A COMMON NATIONAL PURPOSE, DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT THIS NATION REMAINS FREE AND DEMOCRATIC AND THAT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THESE UNITED STATES HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS POTENTIAL, PERFECT HIS TALENTS AND SKILLS AND ACHIEVE HIS GOLDEN DREAM.

IN THIS NATION THERE MUST BE NO FORGOTTEN MAN, NO COMMON MAN, NO AVERAGE MAN. THERE MUST ONLY BE OUR FELLOW MAN, WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE REALITY OF THE WILDEST DREAMS OF THOSE WHO FOUNDED THIS NATION, WHO WROTE OUR CONSTITUTION, WHO INSISTED ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WHO BOUND US BACK TOGETHER AFTER WE SPLIT ASUNDER, WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM IN TWO WORLD WARS, AND WHO GAVE US AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM BASED UPON FREE ENTERPRISE WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE REWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE.

THERE ARE SOME AMONG US WHO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BEST ACHIEVE OUR GOALS BY WITHDRAWING INTO OURSELVES, BY TURNING OUR EYES INWARD, BY MAKING THIS NATION A FORTRESS, BUILDING A MOAT AND PULLING UP THE BRIDGES.

THEY BELIEVE WE SHOULD ISOLATE OURSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AND SAY TO FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE, "PADDLE YOUR OWN BOAT; WE'RE LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN SHIP OF STATE."

THESE PEOPLE ARE SINCERE IN THEIR CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS WE FACE AT HOME. THEY ARE SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT OUR TROUBLED ECONOMY. THEY ARE SINCERE IN THEIR CONCERN FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, THE DISADVANTAGED, THE ELDERLY, OUR POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CROWDED CITIES.

I AM CONCERNED ALSO AND I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY TIME SINCE BECOMING YOUR UNITED STATES SENATOR TRYING TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE VERY COMPLEX PROBLEMS. AND I BELIEVE THAT WORKING TOGETHER EVENTUALLY WE WILL FIND THE SOLUTIONS, TURN THIS COUNTRY AROUND AGAIN, AND GET IT BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT TO DO THIS WE MUST TURN OUR BACKS ON THE REST OF THE WORLD AND FORGET OUR COMMITMENTS TO FRIENDS ABROAD. AND IT IS TIME THAT WE STOPPED WAVERING IN OUR RESOLVE AND MAKE IT CLEAR TO OUR ALLIES THAT THEY CAN COUNT ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO KEEP ITS PROMISES, TO CONTINUE TO DO ITS PART TO PROTECT FREEDOM IN THIS WORLD AND PREVENT THE STRONG FROM PREYING UPON THE WEAK.

UNFORTUNATELY NATIONAL WEAKNESS IN OUR TIME HAS BECOME A PROVOCATION, AN INVITATION TO THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON OTHERS TO COME IN AND DO JUST THAT. THEREFORE, IF WE ARE TO HAVE PEACE WE MUST HAVE A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE AND WE MUST STAND READY TO DEFEND FREEDOM IF THAT IS REQUIRED. I AGREE WITH FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER THAT "(I)N THE FINAL CHOICE A SOLDIER'S PACK IS NOT MERELY SO HEAVY A BURDEN AS A PRISONER'S CHAINS."

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO IS DETERMINED TO DO JUST THAT AND I APPLAUDED HIS ACTION WHEN HE REFUSED TO SIT BACK AND ALLOW A SHIP FLYING THE FLAG OF THE GREAT NATION TO BE SEIZED ON THE HIGH SEAS BY A BAND OF INTERNATIONAL PIRATES. HE LEFT NO ROOM TO DOUBT THAT AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR ITS RIGHTS AND INSIST THAT OTHER NATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, RESPECT THEM.

AND I BELIEVE HE HAS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BEHIND HIM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

I BELIEVE THAT THE SAME SPIRIT THAT HELD US TOGETHER IN '76, THE SAME SPIRIT WE ARE GOING TO COMMERATE NEXT YEAR IN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS NATION, IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO BIND US TOGETHER IN 1976, 86, 96, 2006 AND THEREAFTER.

AND THE REASON IS SIMPLE. WE RECOGNIZE TODAY,

JUST AS WE DID ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THAT DEMOCRACY IN THE BEGINNING WAS NOT A GIFT NOR WILL IT EVER BE.

IT WAS WON OUT OF THE ANGUISH OF AN ENSLAVED PEOPLE; IT WAS WON OUT OF MAN'S LONG CHERISHED HOPES TO BE FREE. IT WAS WON BY THE BRAVE DEEDS AND SIMPLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEN FROM TOWNS LIKE LINVILLE, NEWLAND, BOONE, SPRUCE PINE AND A THOUSAND OTHERS WHICH NEVER RECEIVED NATIONAL ATTENTION BUT NEVERTHELESS ARE STAMPED AS "PROFILES OF COURAGE" IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN SMALL TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THESE UNITED STATES.

GREAT OR SMALL, THESE DEEDS PERFORMED BENEATH THE FOLDS OF OLD GLORY, WOVEN TOGETHER, HAVE PRODUCED A NATIONAL FABRIC TOO STRONG TO BE RIPPED APART BY THE SUDDEN VIOLENCE OF AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET, TOO RUGGED TO BE MADE THREADBARE BY THE LAWLESS ACTS OF MOBS, TOO PROUD TO BE LOWERED EVEN ONE INCH BY ASSAULTS ON OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, TOO COLORFUL TO BE STAINED BY MUD TOSSED FROM ABROAD AND TOO DURABLE TO BE WEAKENED BY THE TRAMPLING OF DETRACTORS AND SUMMER PATRIOTS.

WE CAN KEEP THAT FABRIC STRONG. BUT TO DO SO THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION MUST TAKE THEIR POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY. WE MUST NOT ONLY RESPECT OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM BUT TAKE PART IN IT. WE MUST NOT ONLY CRITICIZE BUT MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS. WE MUST FORMULATE AND PRESENT REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST ENCOURAGE OUR BEST TO SEEK POLITICAL OFFICE AND THEN PROVIDE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR THEM TO SERVE EFFECTIVELY.

LET US RESOLVE HERE TODAY TO DO THESE THINGS.

LET US REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE LOVE AND SERVICE OF THIS REPUBLIC AND ITS FLAG. WE AMERICANS; THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY, ARE A DIVERSE PEOPLE; THIS NATION IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE, A MELTINGPOT. THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC WAS FORMED BY LOVERS OF LIBERTY FROM ALL LANDS. BUT WE STAND TOGETHER AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES...A GLORIOUS COUNTRY, A GREAT FLAG, THE EMBLEM OF ALL THAT WE ARE OR HOPE TO BE, OUR PROTECTION IN WAR, OUR GUARDIAN IN PEACE AND OUR HOPE AT ALL TIMES.

LET US MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR WHAT HAS PASSED, BUT LET US MAKE GREAT PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE. WE LOVE THE HEROIC DEEDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER, THE FABRIC OF THE AMERICAN FLAG. WE CANNOT

FORGET, WE SHALL NOT FORGET, THEIR SUFFERINGS, THEIR TRIALS, THEIR TRIUMPHS AND THEIR FAITHFULNESS. OUR NATION RESTS ON THE BEDROCK OF THEIR DEEDS.

LET US TODAY DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE GRANDFATHER. LET US DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE COMMON BOND WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER AS AMERICANS AND USE THAT STRENGTH TO ENSURE THAT WE SHALL EVER REMAIN, "ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."