

ANNOUNCEMENT REMARKS

by

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN

Harnett County, N.C.

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Tonight, I have come home to you -- the people who gave me my start in public life 30 years ago -- to announce that I am a candidate for re-election to the United States Senate.

Somehow, I thought it fitting that I do this here because it is here that my ancestors settled and it is here that I live and go to church and educate my children. And from here the word can spread to other parts of North Carolina that I want to continue to serve in the United States Senate and I ask you to help spread the word.

Just 30 years ago, while still in law school, I asked you to elect me to the office of Superior Court Clerk -- and you

did. I tried to repay you by improving that office, by modernizing it and making it an office to serve the people.

Later, I asked you to send me to the North Carolina State Senate -- and you did, for five terms. I tried to repay you by speaking my own mind on issues and voting my conscience.

In 1969, I asked you and the rest of North Carolina to let me serve as Attorney General -- and you did.

I tried to repay you by trying to make the North Carolina Attorney General's office the best such office in the South and in the Nation.

We started the first Consumer Protection Agency in the South during my first term there, and I think the good work that it did led some to be so kind as to refer to me as the "people's lawyer".

We also strengthened the State Bureau of Investigation and set up the Police Information Network which connects law enforcement agencies all over the state.

We established the Justice Academy at Salemburg, where law enforcement officers could be trained, and we started it with the ambition to make it the best such training school in the Nation.

Then I asked the people to endorse my record as Attorney General and to re-elect

me -- and you did.

In 1974, I sought the seat in the United States Senate that was left vacant when Senator Sam Ervin retired -- and once again the people responded.

I am now nearing the end of my first term as a member of the Senate and I come to you tonight and once again ask for your support. And I believe you will give me that support, because I am still speaking my own mind and still voting my conscience. And I think that is what you want me to do.

My first five years in the Senate have given me valuable experience -- experience which will let me serve you better during a second term.

It takes some time to adjust to the Senate when a new member arrives. Frankly, the first year or two are spent in finding out how the Senate works and how to work within its system.

My record during my first term has not been a spectacular record, first because I don't think I am a spectacular person and second because practically no Senator compiles a spectacular record during his first term.

But I believe I have compiled a solid, consistent record -- one which you and the rest of the people of the state will approve if you study it.

I am a member of the Armed Services

Committee and that is going to be a very important Committee during the 1980's, because there is trouble in the world and we are going to have to be able to defend ourselves and our interests during this decade. As one who has consistently advocated and voted for a strong defense, I want to continue that effort as a member of the Senate and of its Committee that deals with defense.

I have advocated and consistently voted for fiscal responsibility and have introduced legislation that would require the government to live within its income, just as you and I and the State of North Carolina have to do. It is big spending by the federal government that is helping cause the higher prices that we are all

having to pay for almost everything we buy these days. As a Senator and as a ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, I can help reduce public spending and continue the fight on behalf of the taxpayers.

I have consistently fought measures that took away powers that I felt were better left with the states when efforts were made to turn those powers over to the federal government, which already has gotten too big.

An example of this is the new federal Department of Education, which will end up as another huge, sprawling bureaucracy, and which was created last year. I opposed this because I feel that the states, and the local school boards, can operate the

schools better than they can be run from Washington. On other bills of this nature, I have advocated leaving the matter in the hands of state governments.

During the past five years, I have tried as hard as I could, and feel I have succeeded, in looking out for North Carolina's interests in Washington.

Tobacco has been under attack in Washington for years, but those who would like to see it go away have not been successful. I have worked with the other members of our state delegation and with members from other tobacco states to defend it from efforts that would have seriously hurt our farmers.

And let me add that it is reassuring that the President has told me that as long as he is in office, the tobacco support program, which has worked so well, will stay as it is.

In textiles, in banking, in housing, and in a hundred other businesses, I have been asked by North Carolinians for help, and I have tried to help if I felt the effort was in accord with the national interest.

During all this time, I have tried to keep in touch with the folks back home, because I needed to know what you were thinking in order to represent you better. Practically every weekend I have come back to North Carolina to speak at public

meetings, to confer with those who had problems, or just to visit and listen to what people had to say. I think it has helped me to be a better Senator.

It has been a busy five years. During that time I have introduced 63 bills of my own, co-sponsored 241 bills with other Senators, and co-sponsored 152 important amendments to other bills. That is a total of 456 measures I have been directly connected with.

We have also stayed busy in other ways. Many people have problems with their government and they come to their elected representatives for help.

To meet this need, we established

offices in Raleigh and Asheville where a staff of knowledgeable, competent people are working to help solve problems.

Those who need help with Social Security, veterans' affairs, passports and any other matters involving the federal government can seek aid there and get it. We may not always be able to get the answer that is desired, but those people will try to help and they generally do. I am proud of that staff and believe it handles more cases than any other in the state.

That is what we have been doing -- legislating in Washington and doing work on individual problems in North Carolina and we have been busy.

I want the opportunity to continue working for you and representing you in the Senate.

So I have come back home tonight to ask you to support me once again.

You have been generous -- more than generous -- in the past.

Nine times I have asked for your support -- three of those times in a statewide election -- and nine times you have given it overwhelmingly.

We have come a long way together since 1950 when I first asked for your help.

That same help -- given in the same

measure as it has been given before -- will help carry us to victory in May and re-election in November.

Thank you for coming and God bless you all.