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Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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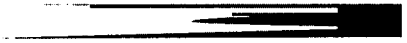
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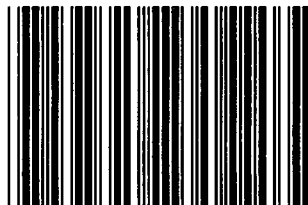

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_____ Remarks at Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner

_____ 04/08/1978

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BAUCUS

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN MAX BAUCUS
JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER

MOOSE LODGE CONRAD, MONTANA
APRIL 8, 1978

EMERSON ONCE SAID THAT THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DIVIDED INTO THE PARTY OF HOPE AND THE PARTY OF MEMORY. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY THE PARTY OF HOPE TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS. WE REMAIN THE PARTY OF HOPE TODAY.

WILL ROGERS, THAT DEMOCRAT FROM OKLAHOMA, TOOK A LITTLE MORE HUMOUROUS VIEW OF US WHEN HE SAID "I DON'T BELONG TO AN ORGANIZED PARTY -- I AM A DEMOCRAT."

MORE RECENTLY, MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, MO UDALL, DESCRIBED THE WAY DEMOCRATS ACT IN PRIMARIES -- HE SAID WE ARE LIKE A FIRING SQUAD LINED UP IN A CIRCLE.

BUT THAT DESCRIPTION IS INCOMPLETE. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE PARTY OF HOPE BECAUSE WE HAVE REMAINED OPEN CUSSING AND DISCUSSING POSITIONS AND ISSUES. WE ARE A SCRAPPY BUNCH. THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

OUT OF THIS DIVERSITY OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE IT WAS THE DEMOCRATS OF MONTANA WHO SENT TO THE SENATE INDIVIDUALS LIKE WALSH, MURRAY, WHEELER, MANSFIELD, METCALF AND MELCHER -- MEN WHO FORGED A STANDARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY WHICH FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE MEASURED.

IT WAS MONTANA DEMOCRATS WHO GOT MONTANA MOVING AGAIN IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE. AND WITHOUT THE DEDICATED AND MOTIVATING LEADERSHIP OF OUR GOVERNOR TOM JUDGE, MANY OF THE DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SEVENTIES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

NOW A NEW CHALLENGE CONFRONTS MONTANA'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE LEADERSHIP VACUUM LEFT BY MANSFIELD AND METCALF WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FILL. NEW LEADERSHIP MUST BE TAPPED. A NEW DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE MUST FILL THE VOID. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IN BOTH SENATE SEATS AND BOTH HOUSE SEATS FROM MONTANA.

FRANKLY, THE REPUBLICAN RIGHT WING ARE FEELING THEIR OATS. THEY HAVE TARGETED THE OPEN MONTANA SENATE SEAT THIS YEAR. IN 1976 THE RIGHT WING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENTS. MOST OF THESE SEATS WERE LOST IN STATES LIKE WYOMING, UTAH AND NEW MEXICO. THEY CHanneled LARGE SUMS OF MONEY, RAISED LARGELY BY CORPORATE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN RURAL STATES. WE CAN EXPECT THE SAME TYPE OF MEDIA SMEAR TACTICS IN THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION.

WE DEMOCRATS HAVE ALWAYS MET, EXPOSED AND DEFEATED
PHONY RIGHT WING CHALLENGES BEFORE.

WE KNOW THAT DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SIMPLISTIC PATRIOTISM.
RATHER THAT REAL DEMOCRACY HAS DIVERSITY AND VITALITY -- FLOWING
FROM OUR BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION,
PRIVACY AND ASSOCIATION.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE
THAT APART FROM THE FAR RIGHT -- THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
OUR PARTY AND THE REPUBLICANS -- THAT IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE WHO THEY VOTE FOR.

TO THOSE PEOPLE WITH DIM AND FADED MEMORIES I SAY:
WAS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FDR AND HOOVER? WAS THERE A
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LBJ AND GOLDWATER? AND NONE OF US SHOULD
EVER FORGET THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUBERT HUMPHREY AND NIXON.

OF COURSE, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

WILL ROGERS KNEW THAT DIFFERENCE WHEN HE SAID,
"REPUBLICANS TAKE CARE OF THE BIG MONEY, FOR BIG MONEY TAKES CARE
OF THEM." WILL WAS RIGHT. AGAIN THIS YEAR WE WILL BE FACING
BIG REPUBLICAN MONEY, IN EVEN GREATER ABUNDANCE.

YET, MONEY ALONE CAN'T BUY ELECTIONS -- I BELIEVE
THAT THE REAL WAY TO WIN ELECTIONS IS WITH HARD WORK...COMPASSION...
CREATIVITY...AND COOPERATION.

FELLOW DEMOCRATS, THIS YEAR'S ELECTION PRESENTS US WITH A UNIQUE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY.

PERSONALLY, I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS CHALLENGE -- INDEED I WELCOME IT.

I RELISH THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH AND LISTEN TO MY FELLOW MONTANANS -- TO PRESENT MY RECORD, MY VOTES AND ABOVE ALL MY PAST PERFORMANCE -- TO SHARE WITH YOU MY LOVE FOR MONTANA AND MY HOPES FOR HER FUTURE.

DURING MY ENTIRE PUBLIC CAREER IN BOTH THE LEGISLATURE AND THE CONGRESS, I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REMAIN ACCESSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA. TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND AND LISTEN TO EACH DIVERGENT VIEW ON THE ISSUES THAT CONFRONT MONTANA AND THE NATION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REMAIN ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY DECISIONS AND MY ACTIONS IN CONGRESS. IF ELECTED TO THE U.S. SENATE, I WILL CONTINUE MY PRACTICE OF DISTRIBUTING MY ENTIRE VOTING RECORD. AS IN THE PAST, YOU MAY NOT AGREE WITH MY STAND ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I STAND. I WILL CONTINUE TO BE A VOICE AND NOT MERELY A VOTE FOR MONTANA IN WASHINGTON.

LET ME CLOSE WITH A FOOTNOTE ON THE STYLE OF CAMPAIGNS. AS DEMOCRATS, LET US FULLY DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT ISSUES CONFRONTING MONTANA -- AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND UNRESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT. LET US DEBATE OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES LIKE INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT LET US AVOID THE GUTTER POLITICS THAT HAVE SOMETIMES CLOUDED MONTANA CAMPAIGNS IN THE PAST. LET US AGREE TO DISAGREE ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, KEEPING IN MIND THAT WE ARE THE PARTY OF HOPE.

AND WHEN THOSE DISCUSSIONS ARE FINISHED AND THE PRIMARY
OVER, I KNOW THAT WE WILL DO AGAIN WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE--
UNITE BEHIND OUR DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

AND WORK FOR VICTORY IN NOVEMBER.