

9-24-1978

Late campaign speech focusing on tax reform

Max S. Baucus

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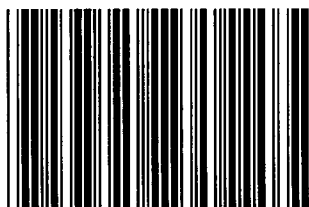
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Late Campaign Speech focusing on Tax Reform

09/24/1978

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BAUCUS

Sept, 1978

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE.

I USUALLY SAY, "IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN SUCH AND SUCH A PLACE."

BUT IN AUTUMN OF A CAMPAIGN YEAR MY SCHEDULE GETS TO HECTIC THAT I AM PRONE TO SAY THINGS LIKE, "IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN MM ... UH ... WELL, IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE, ANYWAY." YOU LOSE A LITTLE CREDIBILITY WHEN YOU START LIKE THAT.

SO I'LL STICK WITH, "IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE," EVEN THOUGH I'M FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT IF IT'S FRIDAY THIS MUST BE LOS ANGELES. IT IS FRIDAY, ISN'T IT?

I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VERY GENEROUS SUPPORT.

NOT MANY DEMOCRATS CAN AFFORD THE PRICE OF A TICKET TO THIS DINNER. AND WHEN THEY BEGIN TO REALIZE THEY CAN AFFORD IT, THEY BECOME REPUBLICANS.

I AM RUNNING FOR THE SENATE AGAINST A COMMODITIES BROKER WHO MADE HIS FORTUNE OUTSIDE MONTANA. HE APPARENTLY HOPES TO DO WELL ENOUGH AGAINST ME TO PERSUADE THE REPUBLICANS TO LET HIM HAVE A SHOT AT THE GOVERNORSHIP.

RIGHT NOW THE POLLS SHOW ME RUNNING AHEAD OF HIM BY A TWO TO ONE MARGIN. I AM DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO INCREASE THAT MARGIN TO SEND MY OPPONENT AND HIS CARPETBAG BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MONTANA'S TRADITION OF BRINGING WESTERNERS' PERSPECTIVE AND A THOUGHTFUL VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO THE SENATE. I WILL BE PROUD TO SERVE A STATE THAT HAS BEEN REPRESENTED BY BURTON K. WHEELER, FRANK WALSH, JIM MURRAY, MIKE MANSFIELD, AND LEE METCALF.

THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN MY CAMPAIGN -- AS I SUSPECT IT IS IN MOST CAMPAIGNS THIS YEAR -- IS THE ECONOMY ... TAXES, INFLATION, GOVERNMENT SPENDING. IT OVERSHADOWS EVERY OTHER ISSUE. NONE OF US CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE IT.

AND NONE OF US HAVE.

IT IS A SAD TRUTH THAT IF A CONGRESSMAN TODAY INTRODUCED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE HOUSE, A COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY CUT THEM TO EIGHT.

SINCE THE NEW DEAL, WE DEMOCRATS WHO HAVE DOMINATED CONGRESS HAVE CREATED AND EXPANDED PROGRAMS AMERICANS NEED AND WANT.

BUT THERE COMES A POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS, WHEN THE VOTERS STAND UP AND SAY, "NO MORE!" AND WE MAY HAVE REACHED THAT POINT.

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME SINCE I CAME TO THE HOUSE FOUR YEARS AGO. I HAVE WORKED HARD AGAINST EXCESSIVE TAXES, INFLATION, AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING DURING BOTH MY TERMS.

THE TAX CUT PACKAGE RECENTLY PASSED BY THE HOUSE INCLUDES A PROPOSAL I MADE TO SLOW DOWN TAXFLATION BY ADJUSTING TAX BRACKETS UPWARD SIX PERCENT.

I INTEND TO PUSH FOR APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS IN FUTURE YEARS.

I AM PROUD THAT THE NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION HAS CALLED ME ONE OF THE MOST FRUGAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

I SUPPORT THE TAX CUT PACKAGE PASSED BY THE HOUSE. IT REDUCES THE MAXIMUM TAX ON CAPITAL GAINS FROM 49 PERCENT TO 35 PERCENT, A CHANGE WE DESPERATELY NEED TO STIMULATE CAPITAL FORMATION AND PRODUCTIVITY.

MOST OF THE BENEFITS IN THE PACKAGE GO TO MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYERS.

I SUPPORT SUNSET REORGANIZATION, ZERO-BASED BUDGETING AND ZERO-BASED REGULATION.

WE MUST LEARN TO MANAGE PUBLIC FUNDS WITH THE DISCIPLINE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS.

*mention
California
Prop #13*

IN GENERAL, I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE A LOT BETTER OFF IF EACH CONGRESSMAN OR SENATOR WAS AS CAREFUL ABOUT SPENDING PUBLIC MONEY AS HE WAS ABOUT SPENDING HIS OWN.

THE REPUBLICANS HAVE FOUND A CAMPAIGN ISSUE WHOSE TIME HAS COME: THEY OPPOSE TAXES, INFLATION, AND SPENDING.

AND IT IS EASY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO REMEMBER THAT THE REPUBLICANS STAND IN OPPOSITION. THEY ALWAYS STAND IN OPPOSITION. THEY HAVE OPPOSED EVERY DROP OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

NO, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE AGAINST. BECAUSE DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND HALF A TRILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

SO WE MUST BE FOR SOMETHING.

IN THE WORDS OF A GREAT DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT, WOODROW WILSON, "A PARTY IS WORTH NO MORE THAN THAT WHICH IT STANDS FOR."

AND WE DEMOCRATS HAVE STOOD FOR SOMETHING -- BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN SOMETHING.

WE BELIEVE IN OPEN GOVERNMENT -- PARTICULARLY DEMOCRACY -- GOVERNMENT OF THE MANY, NOT OF THE FEW. FOR THE PAST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS, I HAVE COMPILED AND SENT TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN MY DISTRICT MY VOTING RECORD.

WE BELIEVE IN CLEAN WATER AND CLEAN AIR.

WE BELIEVE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. LIKE MARTIN LUTHER KING, WE HAVE A DREAM. AND WE INSIST ON CONTINUING TO PURSUE THAT DREAM.

WE BELIEVE THAT WORKING PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REASONABLE WAGES FOR THEIR LABOR, AS WELL AS DECENT AND SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS.

WE BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION FOR ALL IS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF OUR DEMOCRACY. THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE FOUNDER OF OUR PARTY, SAID, "IF A COUNTRY EXPECTS TO BE IGNORANT AND FREE, IT EXPECTS WHAT NEVER WAS AND WHAT NEVER WILL BE."

OUR GREAT LEADER DURING THE NEW DEAL, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, CALLED DEMOCRACY THE HOPE OF THE WORLD. WE DEMOCRATS BELIEVE THAT.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEFEND THAT VISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HERE AT HOME, IN THE STILL-STRUGGLING NATION OF ISRAEL -- ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

LIKE THE REPUBLICANS, WE WANT LOWER TAXES, NOT HIGHER. LESS INFLATION, NOT MORE; LESS SPENDING, NOT MORE. BUT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE VALUES IN WHICH WE BELIEVE SO DEEPLY AND FOR WHICH WE HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD.

WE HAVE A DOGGED DETERMINATION THAT WAS EXPRESSED BY HUBERT HUMPHREY, A GREAT DEMOCRAT WHO MAY HAVE LOST SOME BATTLES BUT NEVER STOPPED FIGHTING.

LATE IN HIS LIFE, HUBERT SAID HE TRIED NEVER TO BE DEJECTED NO MATTER WHAT DEFEATS OR DISAPPOINTMENTS HE SUFFERED. WHENEVER HE MADE A CONCESSION SPEECH, HE THOUGHT OF IT AS THE FIRST SPEECH OF HIS NEXT CAMPAIGN.

HUBERT UNDERSTOOD THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA, AS DID
DE TOCQUEVILLE, WHO WROTE:

"I SOUGHT FOR THE GREATNESS AND GENIUS OF AMERICA IN
HER FERTILE FIELDS AND BOUNDLESS FORESTS -- AND IT WAS NOT THERE ...
IN HER RICH MINES AND HER VAST WORLD COMMERCE -- AND IT WAS NOT
THERE ... AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE SHE IS GOOD, AND IF AMERICA
EVER CEASES TO BE GOOD, AMERICA WILL CEASE TO BE GREAT."

THAT GOODNESS IS THE TRUE SOURCE OF AMERICA'S GREATNESS,
AND OF THE GREATNESS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

THANK YOU.

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