Exchange Club Youth Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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REMARKS BY
SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
EXCHANGE CLUB YOUTH DINNER
BILLINGS, MONTANA
MAY 28, 1981

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND REMARKS, DAVE. I AM IMPRESSED BY THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE TO BRING THIS FINE GROUP TOGETHER THIS EVENING.

TONIGHT WE HONOR OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN BILLINGS.

(MAX -- YOU CAN SINGLE OUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW IF YOU THINK APPROPRIATE)

I RESPECT THE EFFORTS OF YOUR CLUB, MIKE, TO ASSURE RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMUNITY FOR 24 STUDENTS SELECTED BY THEIR TEACHERS AS YOUTH OF THE MONTH.

THE TOPIC OF YOUR ESSAYS -- "AMERICA: AS STRONG AS ITS CITIZENS" -- IS A NOBLE ONE. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO READING THE ESSAYS OF THE THREE WINNERS WHO WILL BE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE.

(MAX -- YOU MAY WANT TO OFFER AT THIS POINT TO HAVE THE THREE WINNING ESSAYS REPRINTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.)
All of you students who are honored this evening for your various accomplishments are fortunate to have in your community a group like the Billings Exchange Club. America needs more emphasis on excellence, and the efforts and achievements of the Exchange Club are exactly the kind of programs we should be pursuing.

I would like to heed this evening the admonition of one old scholar who said:

"Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week."

Although I enjoy talking with you so much, I promise to keep my few remarks short. All of us, no doubt, are looking forward to the Miss Montana Pageant Road Show and the awarding of scholarships so I don't want to hold up the show.

The accomplishments of all of you honored as Youth of the Month remind me of a story told about Daniel Webster. Whenever he passed a group of young people, he always tipped his hat. One day a friend asked him why he followed such a strange custom. Webster replied that whenever he passed such a group that he felt obligated to tip his hat. Why? Because, in his words, he saw before him "so much ability that each could reach a position of greatness, if all their God-given abilities were developed."
In the spirit of Dan Webster, I salute both the talents and leadership which have led to your being singled out as Youth of the Month and the potential each of you represents.

Leadership, as you know, is not an opportunity to carve out an empire for ego but to create a climate for cooperation. James McGregor Burns, the award-winning American political scientist in his 1978 book *Leadership*, wrote, "Leadership is inseparable from the followers' needs and goals."

A good leader is a good manager of time taken to work out mutual goals and needs, of time taken to introduce needed changes to strengthen a group, and of time taken to develop the potential of each member.

A good leader delegates authority and tasks. In so doing, a leader must have the patience not to interfere when an inexperienced person through trial and error works at a task differently from the way in which the leader would perform the same task. In short, the method is less important than accomplishing the work satisfactorily.

However, when things go wrong, a conscientious leader tactfully can point out mistakes in the hope that they can be avoided again.
HAVING ESTABLISHED A CLIMATE OF COOPERATION TO DEFINE NEEDS AND GOALS, A GOOD LEADER KNOWS THAT HIS OR HER MISSION IS BROAD. IT IS TO INSURE THAT YOU GET GOOD WORK OUT OF A JOB RATHER THAN TO RULE.

AS LEADERS, YOU HAVE A PROVEN CAPACITY FOR WORK. LEADERSHIP NO LONGER MEANS A TITLE ON A DOOR OR A CARPET ON THE FLOOR. LEADERS ARE VALUED BY ACTIVITIES WHERE THEY HAVE EARNED THE REPUTATION OF NOT SHIRKING HARD WORK COMPLETED EFFECTIVELY AND WITHOUT FANFARE.

HAND IN GLOVE WITH THE CAPACITY FOR WORK IS RELIABILITY. "WE CAN COUNT ON YOU TO GET THE JOB DONE" IS A COMPLIMENT EARNED BY MANY PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM TIME AND TIME AGAIN. THAT COMPLIMENT CONVEYS THE KIND OF RESPECT WHICH IS THE REAL GLUE OF ANY GOOD ORGANIZATION.

LEADERSHIP AND WORK GO WITH INVOLVEMENT. INVOLVEMENT IS BASIC TO GOOD FAMILIES, GOOD SCHOOLS AND GOOD COMMUNITIES. BUT THIS INVOLVEMENT WON'T EMERGE WITHOUT RISK. REMEMBER THE WORDS OF BROOKS ATKINSON WHO SAID:

"THERE IS A CALCULATED RISK IN EVERYTHING; THERE HAS BEEN A CALCULATED RISK IN EVERY STAGE OF AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT. THE NATION WAS BUILT BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO TOOK RISKS -- PIONEERS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF FAILURE, SCIENTISTS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF TRUTH, THINKERS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF PROGRESS, DREAMERS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF ACTION."
YOU KNOW THE RISKS OF LEADERSHIP AND YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THEM. OTHERWISE, YOU WOULD NOT BE HERE THIS EVENING.

YOUR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN THE FUTURE FOR SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IS ESSENTIAL. AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE CONFRONTS US, BUT, AS ATKINSON POINTED OUT, INVOLVEMENT, NOT FEAR, IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE RESOLVE OUR FUTURE.

BEFORE YOU ATTAIN MIDDLE AGE, YOU WILL SPAN THE EVENTS TO TWO CENTURIES. YOU WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO ESTABLISH THE NEEDS AND GOALS FOR OUR STATE’S AND NATION’S FUTURE.

TO PARAPHRASE ADLAI STEVENSON “YOU WILL HAVE THREADED YOUR WAY BETWEEN IMPERIALISM AND ISOLATIONISM, BETWEEN THE DISAVOWAL OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POWER AND THE ASSERTION OF YOUR POWER BEYOND YOUR RESOURCES.”

THE CHOICES ARE DIFFICULT, THE RISKS ARE GREAT AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR EVERY GENERATION OF US.

AS I LOOK AT YOU THIS EVENING, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT YOU INDEED REPRESENT THE STRENGTH NEEDED TO GRAPPLE WITH THE MANY CHOICES AHEAD. YOU WILL ACCEPT THE RISKS OF LEADERSHIP, AND WE WILL MOVE FORWARD!

ONCE AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU AND THANK YOU FOR THE PLEASURE OF BEING WITH YOU THIS EVENING.