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Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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(2) Subject* Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner

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MANSFIELD-METCALF DINNER HELENA CIVIC CENTER MARCH 15, 1985

Thank You.

As we gather tonight on the Ides of March in celebration of Mike Mansfield and Lee Metcalf, we Democrats stand in an auspicious moment of history.

Here at home we are strong. We've held the Governor's Mansion, most statewide offices and usually both houses of the legislature for 20 years. We have the confidence of our people.

As a national party, however, we have not enjoyed the same trust. The other party is in control. They won the White House for a second term and they have retained control of the U.S. Senate.

We are soul searching. We are regrouping, thinking, adjusting, arguing, agonizing. How do we, as a national party, regain the trust and confidence of the American people?

Listen to these words:

"What Democrats can do, what they must do, is to point out a constructive path for the Republican administration to follow.

"We have got to keep it working when it would prefer to relax.

"For the sake of the American people, we must hold the hand of this Republican administration when it is perplexed. We must try to guide it when it loses the way.

"We have got to try, as we have been trying, to get it started on the road to policies which may lead to more durable peace.

"We have got to improve the decent image of the United States in so many parts of the world.

"We have got to see to it that this Republican administration keeps its nose to the grindstone of the social and economic problems which plague large parts of the nation.

"You know those problems:

o Inadequate education and other unequal opportunities for millions:

o A disgracefull agricultural policy;

o High prices;

o Millions of unemployed;

o An antiquated and inequitable tax system;

o And a neglect of our older citizens.

"These and similar matters are the problems which confront us. "We have a duty to try to make this administration work, not for the benefit of the few, but for the many."

These aren't my words. They are the words of Mike Mansfield delivered nearly 30 years ago at a Democratic Dinner.

Our duty is to meet the challenges facing us today, just as we did in 1956 and 1958. Indeed we WILL, if we heed Mike's words.

So as we meet tonight, with our good friend Cecil Andrus, let us rededicate ourselves, once again, to finding the soul of America. Let us provide hope, compassion, pride, jobs, economic growth, and peace. Let us be the heart of our country. And, as we do this, let us work, not as individuals but TOGETHER, with optimism, with confidence, with a "can do" attitude, so that, as Mike said, we find policies not for the few, but for the many.

If we do this, not only will we retain the trust of our people here at home, but we will once again have the trust of America in the U.S. Senate, and two years later, in the White House.

Thank you very much!