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## Cascade County Democratic Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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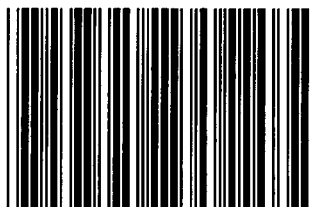
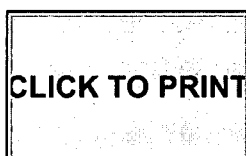
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BAUCUS

CASCADE COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC DINNER

Thursday, February 16, 1989

Thank you everyone, for the welcome. It's great to be here with you during the current heat wave.

I also want to extend a special thanks to Marlene Egan, your Chairman. Once again she has done an excellent job. And I can tell you, her fine work for Democrats runs in the family. Marlene's daughter, Pam, is a member of my staff, and an excellent one at that. Marlene, the folks in Washington miss Pam terribly, but I'm sure glad she's the one who will be staffing my new office in Kalispell. You can be very proud of her, Marlene. She works hard for Montana Democrats.

As do all of you. All of you have worked hard to bring the Democratic message to Cascade County and to help build a great Democratic tradition in Montana.

Let me tell you, I for one am not going to let that great Democratic tradition falter, and I know for a fact none of you will either.

We're going to continue to work together — For jobs for Montanans.

The people of Montana want and need jobs — For themselves and their families. And they want results.

That's good for Democrats. That's real good for Democrats. When it comes to working hard for people who need jobs — When it comes to fighting for better health care for veterans and our senior citizens — When it comes to standing up to the Washington, D.C. establishment — It is Democrats who have stood on the side of all Montanans.

Democrats care. We want to build a better life. We don't turn our backs on those in need. Montana Democrats help their neighbors.

I know this from first-hand experience. For the last two years I've tried to put aside one day each month to work with Montanans — On their jobs — In their mills — By their sides.

I love these 'work days' because they help me understand the concerns of Montanans even better.

Earlier this week I spent a day working with health care providers. I worked at an adult day care

center, served Meals on Wheels around Helena, and helped home bound seniors.

One of the purposes of that work day was to draw attention to the need for better long-term health care — a crisis facing scores of Montana working families.

Democrats are concerned about long-term care and are looking for answers. I am vice-chairman of a newly established federal commission on long-term care. Over the next year, the commission will put many hours into looking for ways to protect families against the devastating cost of an extended illness.

That's the Democratic commitment — Working hard to help people. Montana Democrats work hard to help Montanans. You here tonight are all workers and fighters for Montana. Cascade County has some of the hardest working, most dedicated Democrats in our great state.

We've got Harry Mitchell, newly elected county commissioner and former state senator — as hard a worker as you'll find anywhere. Harry joins commission veterans Jack Whitaker and Dick Gasvoda in facing the challenge of maintaining important government services with limited county revenue.

Harry, Dick and Jack are fortunate to work with a Democratic 'full house' in the courthouse — Barry Mitchelotti, Diane Green, Tug Ikeda, Charlie Nebel, Joe Tropila, Florence McGiboney, Pat Paul and Dick Michelotti. It's a dynamic line-up, working for Cascade County.

Meanwhile, down in Helena, people like Dick Manning, Mike Walker, Jerry Nisbet, Diana Wyatt, Mac McCormick, Helen O'Connell and Bill Strizich are looking for ways to make sure our kids get a top education and our tax system is fair to all.

Cascade County Democrats are fighting for Montana, and so am I. Our state is looking for results. And Democrats have a record of delivering.

Throughout this century, Democrats have been the force of positive change for America. As Montana prepares for its next century, it will be Montana Democrats who will lead the way.

Our party is the party of the people, not of special interests. Our great leaders — Wilson, Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter — knew that this Republic will be judged not on the strength of its compassion, but on the compassionate use of its

strength.

We haven't had the luxury during the last eight years of having a Democrat lead our country. We've had to battle the Reagan Administration all the way to protect the economic health of states like Montana.

It hasn't been an easy fight, as we all know. No other Administration did more harm to Montana and its people than the Reagan Administration. The Democratic Congress helped make the best of a tough situation. And we're committed now more than ever. I intend to see to it that the Bush Administration sits up and takes notice of Montana's needs and concerns.

For starters, I've already invited four members of the cabinet to visit Montana and learn first hand about our needs. I want them to learn from Montanans — not some Washington bureaucrat — how to better serve our state.

The Secretaries of Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency will be in Montana this year to listen to Montanans. Getting Washington policymakers out from behind their desks and into our fields, hospitals, and airports shows that

Democrats care about Montana.

Last year when Lloyd Bentsen came to Great Falls, he wasn't here as a passing tourist. He knew that Montana wasn't getting a fair deal from Washington. And he's going to continue to work with me to see to it that Montana is not left out in the cold. Lloyd is going to come back to Montana with me, because he cares.

He cares, but he also knows Democrats need to be responsible. We can't promise the moon if our own house isn't in order. We have our work cut out for us. But to build a better Montana for our children, and their children, we need to join hands in a march towards stability and prosperity.

Democrats succeed because we know that common action creates uncommon results. And helping all Montanans reach higher is what our party is all about. Working together is the only way to get the job done. And I know it works.

I've worked with the Union men at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant. It was as tough a job as I've ever had — all night long on the line. Those guys stuck together. They made that place work. That's the kind of commitment we need in this country. And that's the kind of commitment Democrats offer Montana.



There are things I can do for you in Washington and here at home. But I need your help. I need your help to build on our great Democratic tradition. I need your hands to reach for those uncommon results.

We Montanans are very lucky. Our Democratic tradition reaches far beyond the borders of our big, wide state.

Last week, Mike Mansfield and his wife Maureen, again graced the chamber of the U.S. Senate. They sat in the visitors' gallery and listened to speeches honoring Mike's years of public service.

Mike inspired me to enter public life. He has set a standard to which all who pursue a political career should strive.

While some may reflect with worry upon the Democrats political fortunes, I say fear not. All I need to do is remember Mike's confident gaze over the Senate chamber that once was his own. He is a monument to what we Democrats brought Montana. And we Democrats have the capacity to build a Montana that is a monument to the future.

For me, the 101st Congress is a new beginning. Democrats are in a strong position. We control both the House and the Senate, and we are not going to sacrifice Democratic traditions.

We have a new, strong Senate leader — my close friend George Mitchell of Maine. He will write a new chapter for the Senate — one committed to helping create jobs for states like Montana.

It was George's personal support that helped me get a seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, in addition to my duties on Finance, Environment, and Small Business.

My Agriculture Committee assignment will bring me closer to the issues that touch Montana, and I will be working closely with the chairman, Pat Leahy. Many of you remember when John and I brought Pat Leahy to this area during the drought. That visit was instrumental in getting swift action on drought relief legislation.

In the new Congress I will also be chairing two important subcommittees: International Trade, which is crucial to helping Montana's agriculture export business; and Environmental Protection, which has jurisdiction over our nation's most important environmental laws.

Agriculture, Trade, Environment — these are your committees too. And I want to put them to work for Montana — for our farms, for our hospitals, for our land, and for our people.

I also want our Senate leaders to learn more about Montana. I want them to get to know Montana Democrats better. And I want you to have a chance to get to know them better.

That's why I've invited George Mitchell to come to Montana in April. He's going to visit Havre and Miles City, and then speak at the Mansfield—Metcalf Dinner in Helena. I hope all of you will join us, so we can give George a big Democratic welcome.

Montana has a great friend in George Mitchell. He is a man who knows how to reach out to the working people of this country. He knows that Montana is different from New York, Georgia, and California.

And he's coming to Montana because he knows that Montana Democrats are the hope for the future of our state.

I believe that, too. You here tonight, and other dedicated Democrats across our state are the hope

for Montana's future. Together, we can and will build a better Montana for our families and friends.

As Mike Mansfield once said:

'There is a great deal that is right in this nation. We are a generous country, with a strong, decent, industrious, and compassionate people. There is ample intelligence and inventiveness and an immense experience and vitality in our midst. If today, working together, we will put these attributes to use for the benefit of all, there need be no fear for the nation's tomorrow.'

Today, you and I — Democrats — are Montana's future. We are the ones who work for jobs — for better health care — for veterans — for education. We care — whether we're working in the precincts, the county courthouse, the state legislature or the Congress. As long as we work together today, we need not fear for Montana's tomorrow.

Thank you.