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### Address by Senator Mansfield given at the Appreciation Dinner for Democratic Members -Mass.

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ADDRESS BY SENATOR MIKE MANFIELD (D., MONTANA)

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Given at the

Appreciation Dinner for the Democratic Members  
of the Massachusetts Senate

Boston, Massachusetts, Thursday, June 25, 1964

I had expected to come here tonight with Ted Kennedy. I am glad to be here in any event. And I am grateful to God that he is still here. This near tragedy to Ted Kennedy and Birch Bayh and his wife came as a severe shock to everyone and our condolences go out to the families of the men whose lives were lost. It is a relief to know that Ted Kennedy is not only alive but that he will recover fully. And it is reassuring to learn from the doctors that he will be just about ready to go after you elect him to a full term to the Senate in November.

To come to Massachusetts is to come to a principal source of the nation's history and political inspiration. Massachusetts is the home of towering Americans--of leaders of the Revolution and founders of American democracy. It is also the home of recent immigrants and sons of immigrants and sons of sons of immigrants from many lands who have poured a continuing vitality into the historic ideals of the nation. But for us, for all of the living generations of all places in the nation, Massachusetts is and will remain, before all else, the home of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

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Your state is represented in Washington by outstanding Democratic national leaders in the person of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, John McCormack and the Attorney General of the United States, Robert Kennedy. May I say that it is time to add to the list of outstanding national leaders from Massachusetts the name of Ted Kennedy.

He has been tried and proven in the short term which he has served in the Senate.

Ted Kennedy is in the great Massachusetts tradition. He has brought to the Senate the Kennedy courage. He has brought the Kennedy insight into the affairs of nation and state. He has brought the Kennedy compassion for all people. And he has brought the Kennedy ability and desire to get things done on behalf of the people. Ted Kennedy has served only two years in the Senate, but those two years have already marked him for a life of great national service.

The State of Massachusetts is a seedbed of American democracy. It was here that the town meeting first developed. Here a tradition of government by the people and for the people and of the people grew and matured. The twenty-eight Democratic state Senators whom we honor tonight are of this tradition of government close to the people. Those who serve in the state legislatures conduct much of the nation's public business. They are essential parts of the political backbone of America. They are an integral element in the complex of federal-state-local relationships by which the American people govern themselves.



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The key factor in this complex is the President of the United States. If ever there was any question of the importance of the Presidency, John Fitzgerald Kennedy dispelled it.

Scarcely four years ago John F. Kennedy said, "Let us begin." We did begin.

Almost a year ago, Lyndon B. Johnson stood before the Congress in a nation overwhelmed with grief and anxiety and said: "Let us continue." We are continuing under another great Democratic Administration.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy's pledge of excellence is being redeemed by the work and dedication of Lyndon B. Johnson. We cannot and we will not forget the tragedy which took the life of President Kennedy. But we can take courage from the knowledge that the renaissance in American life which he began did not die with him. It is going forward under the leadership of President Johnson.

This nation is now in the midst of an assault on the massive neglect and indifference to public welfare which has marred its excellence for too many years.

We have begun and we will continue the effort to meet the problems of unemployment and the wasteful under-utilization of our great productive capacity. Last March the Congress passed an 11.3 billion dollar tax cut. It has already stimulated consumption, investment, and economic growth. It is helping to keep unemployment under control. And a Democratic Administration has made clear that there will be another tax cut if there is a continuance of the excellent effect of the first <sup>one continues,</sup> on the nation's ~~economy.~~

(Letter changes)

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We have begun and we will continue the effort to give meaning to the Constitution's promise of equal opportunity for all Americans. We are on the verge of writing into law a just and workable civil rights bill. It is a measure which was close to the heart of President Kennedy. It is close to the heart of President Johnson. It is a measure which has had the active support of nearly every religious denomination in the nation. In my judgment, future generations of Americans will look back on the passage of this bill as an historic milestone. They will look upon it, too, as an enduring memorial to the late President.

We have begun and we will continue the effort to raise the caliber and capacity of our educational facilities until they are adequate to insure every boy and girl in the land an opportunity for a good education. That is the way John Fitzgerald Kennedy wanted it. That is the way it will be. The last two Congresses--Democratic Congresses--have done more to realize the ideal of equal educational opportunity for all American children than any other in a hundred years.

We have begun and we will continue the effort to expand and improve the facilities for the care and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded and the mentally ill. Congress has authorized funds for research and for construction of facilities. It has made it possible to reduce the number of full-time patients in mental hospitals by one half in the near future and I would remind you that, at present, the great bulk of the hospital beds in the nation are now occupied by mental patients.



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We have begun and we will continue the effort to conserve our great natural heritage. This Congress has passed laws to provide for the recreational needs of the present and future and to attack the serious and growing problems of water and air pollution.

We have not begun but we are determined to begin to meet, in full dimension, the problem of hopeless poverty which plagues millions of American families. The Johnson anti-poverty proposals would give over half a million underprivileged young Americans the opportunity to develop skills, to continue their education, and to achieve self respect in useful work. It would help every community in America. It would help millions of workers and farmers. It would, in short, extend to all Americans the opportunity to earn a share in the abundance of our times. And by so doing, it will add to the moral and economic strength and the unity of the nation.

We have not begun but we are determined to begin to see to it that the older citizens of the nation obtain adequate health care not as a matter of charity or sufferance but as a matter of right. They have earned that right. They are entitled to it. We will find a way to insure it. The pattern is there in the old age social security system which has served the nation well for a quarter of a century. Some similar arrangement can and must be devised for the health care of the aged.

It is not enough to wring our hands in sympathy for the plight of older citizens and their families when illnesses of catastrophic cost hit them. We must act, and, under the leadership of the President, we will act.

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In these and in countless other ways a Democratic Administration and a Democratic Congress have shown an alertness to the real needs of the nation. We will leave it to others to seek to rebuild the ghost towns of the frontiers of yesterday. There is work to be done on the frontiers of these times. There is work to be done in the nation as it is today and, for the nation as it will be tomorrow. That work, as it has been ever since the days of Franklin Roosevelt, is the work of the Democratic Party.

In foreign relations there is also work to be done and it will continue to be done under a Democratic Administration.

We are determined to protect our own security and our own freedom. And we are determined to do whatever can be done to strengthen peace in a troubled world. In three short years, John Fitzgerald Kennedy reassured the <sup>world</sup> ~~work~~ of the vitality, the strength and the wisdom of this nation's leadership and people. His was a steady and unflinching hand on the nuclear trigger. His was a steady mind focused on the problems of peace and the capacity of human intelligence to master them. He did not act for peace out of fear but neither was he ever afraid to act for peace out of good sense.

Thomas Paine once said, "The cause of America is the cause of all mankind." Our cause, today, is a world in which human decency and economic progress has a real meaning for all men. We cannot remake the world in our own image and I know of no desire on the part of this administration to do so. But we will try to do our share as we have long done.



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Whether it be in Cuba, in Berlin, or in Southeast Asia, in Latin America or in the United Nations, we stand for freedom, for justice and for a reasoned and honorable peace. We stand for the Four Freedoms of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We stand, with Harry S. Truman, for assisting less fortunate countries, nations struggling out of centuries of old oppression and faced by threats of a new oppression.

The keys to this stand, to this policy are an effective military strength controlled by a prudent restraint and the courage and the wit to face our adversaries, not only across the battlefields but across the conference tables in an effort to reduce the dangers which threaten all mankind.

As a result of the review and reconstruction of our military forces started almost four years ago our military strength, today, is unparralleled. Our determination to defend ourselves was demonstrated in the Cuban missile crisis. Our prudent restraint was demonstrated by President Kennedy when he refused to be panicked by the clamours to use it in a massive invasion of Cuba or to precipitate a nuclear war. And it was demonstrated again by President Johnson when he refused to send the Marines into Cuba to turn on the water at Guantanamo.

Under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson we have worked patiently to reduce the dangers of nuclear war, to find the areas of agreement and honorable peace and to take advantage of the disharmony



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which has appeared among the Communist countries in recent years. The wheat sale, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, support of the U.N. in Cyprus and the Middle East and the trade agreement with Rumania which is now pending are all successful steps toward the long range goal of a safer, more peaceful world. It may be said of each of these achievements, as John F. Kennedy said of the Test Ban Treaty, "It is a shaft of light cut into the darkness. . . a step toward reduced world tension, . . . a step toward peace, a step toward reason, a step away from war."

I cannot say to you tonight that all is well in the world and the nation. But I can say to you that under Democratic leadership we have made a start. New ideas and policies are being tested and put into effect. We are recognizing the changes in the world situation even as we have recognized the vast changes at home. We have begun. We are continuing. And after November we will go on working under a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress for a new decency at home and a more durable peace in the world.