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STATEMENT OF SENATOR WIKI MOYER (D. MONT)
1966 DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER
THE ARMORY, MAY 12, 1966
7:00 p. m.

Washington, D. C.

On behalf of the Democratic Senators standing for reelection - all of whom will be reelected - in November, I thank you.

I thank you, too, on behalf of the new Democrats who will be in the Senate next January.

Finally, I express the appreciation of all Senate Democrats to the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee - to Chairman Magnuson, Vice Chairman Dan Inouye, and to their colleagues and to their fine staff headed by Mattie Matthews and Fred Jordan. The Committee has made a great contribution, tonight, as it always does whenever an opportunity presents itself in any way, shape, or form to help Democratic Senatorial candidates.

There may be better ways than over-priced dinners to finance political campaigns. Some day they will be devised and put into practice. Until they are, however, these dinners are under-priced at any price, because they are essential to the political life of the nation.

It remains a fact that a little steak goes a long way. And tonight it goes a very long way.

It goes towards continuing the high caliber of the recent Congresses into the next Congress.

It goes towards assuring President Lyndon B. Johnson of the great legislative cooperation that he has had into the next two years.

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Tonight, we can look forward to another Democratic Congress in January. Even greater Democratic majorities in the 90th Congress are within sight.

Certainly there are no signs now visible in the nation's economy which point to the defeat of Democratic Congressional candidates in November. There are many indications in the nation's economy which point to the election of additional Democrats.

There are no issues in the President's programs of civic advance which point to the defeat of Democratic candidates. There are already many achievements under those programs which redound to the credit of the Democratic party. You know the list. Medicare, civil rights, educational aid, anti-poverty, air and water pollution control, social security increases, GI benefits, and a dozen others designed for the welfare of the nation's people. And before this session is out, the list will be larger.

In short, the ~~effectiveness~~ effectiveness with which recent Democratic Congresses have met their legislative responsibilities for the social welfare of the nation recommends to the people the addition, not the subtraction, of democrats from the next Congress.

Where, then, are the clouds on the horizon? What, then, are the concerns of Democrats for next November? Let us be blunt. What *which has been mentioned by both the President + the Speaker?* about Viet Nam? It is there. With the best of bi-partisan intentions - and some see not the best - it is not going to be kept out of sight during the months ahead. With the best of bi-partisan intentions - and some are not the best - it is not going to be swept under a political rug during the next few months.

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The truth is that Viet Nam is the question of fundamental concern to the people of the United States. And any question which concerns the people deeply, concerns every Democratic candidate for Congress. The issue must be faced and met in the coming campaign.

What I want to say to you tonight is that Democrats need have no fear of this issue. Democrats in this Congress have no apologies whatsoever to make on the question of Viet Nam. Democrats, however, do owe the people of the United States an open discussion of this question in the coming months. And so, too, may I say, do Republican candidates. The public is entitled to know what a Democratic Congress thinks about Viet Nam. The public is entitled to know in what way a Republican Congress would think differently and what it would be likely to do differently.

There will certainly be discussion of Viet Nam in the coming campaign. For the good of the nation, beyond party, one can only hope that it will be honest and straight-forward discussion. For the good of the nation, one can only hope this discussion can be pursued with a decent restraint. One can only hope that it will reflect a due regard for the great and final responsibilities of the President of the United States.

There are differences of view among Democrats in the Senate on Viet Nam. They have been expressed time and again, and they will continue to be expressed while the issue remains unresolved, while peace

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remains disestablished. There also are differences of view among Democrats in the Senate on civil rights, poverty, or whatever among the programs of the Administration. These differences, too, have been expressed. And there have been differences among Democrats on every major issue which has confronted the nation in my recollection. And these, too, have been expressed. Indeed, some of these differences have gone far deeper than those on Viet Nam today and have been expressed with greater vehemence.

Have these differences wrecked the party? On the contrary, in the end, they have strengthened it. Within the framework of this party there has been and there is, now, room for diversity on any issue. And as we mean to keep this party strong and vital, we will see to it that the door is kept open to diversity of view, whether it is on issues sectional, ideological, or international.

I say to you, moreover, that on Viet Nam there is more, far more, convergence among Democrats in the Senate than divergence. Bear in mind that not a single legislative measure pertaining to Viet Nam which the President has sought beginning with the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, has not passed and passed with a great majority. Bear in mind that, reciprocally, the President has been receptive to and has tried eagerly to pursue many of the suggestions of members of the Senate which offered some promise of peace.

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President Johnson has the sympathy of every Democrat in the Senate in his great responsibilities for foreign relations. Whatever independent views may be held on Viet Nam, however vehemently they may be expressed, Senators know, as you know, and as the American people are beginning to find out that we are dealing with the most complex, baffling, and uncertain situation ever to confront the ^{a President of} United States. ~~and~~. They know, as the President knows, and as you know, and as the American people are beginning to find out that there are no sure cures, ^{no cheap way,} no easy exists from the morass.

The truth is that there are no experts on Viet Nam who can show a simple way, either to victory or to a just peace. There are only degrees of ineptness. That is true in the agencies of government, no less than in the academic world or in the Congress. The President is seeking the best advice and counsel from wherever he can get it in his search for solutions. On the basis of that advice, he is straining every fiber of mind and heart to set the course which may lead to a just and honorable peace in Viet Nam. Every Democrat in the Senate knows of the energy of that effort, and every Democrat in the Senate fully sympathizes with the President in that effort.

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We go into the campaign knowing that the President and the Democratic members of the Congress each have their individual responsibilities on this issue even as they have a collective responsibility to the nation. In that light, we go into this campaign--all Democrats--with the conviction that another great Democratic Congress working with the ^{outstanding} national leadership of President Lyndon B. Johnson is the best hope, not only for a just and satisfying society at home but for the achievement of a reasonable and honorable peace in Viet Nam at the soonest possible time.

In the words of the President, that is our dream, our hope and our prayer.

Let us help him make it come true.