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The President, Senator Kennedy Speak in N.Y.

SPEECH

OF

HON. MIKE MANSFIELD

OF MONTANA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Tuesday, June 6, 1967

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, on Saturday last, the President of the United States delivered an address at the New York State Democratic Dinner in New York City. In his speech he emphasized the many contributions made by Democratic administrations from the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt onward. While he mentioned the contributions of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and John F. Kennedy, he neglected to mention the contributions which have been made under his administration. He brought home to the assembled what the Democratic Party is doing, just what it has done, and just what it intends to do in the future.

On the occasion of the meeting with the New York State Democrats, the President was most graciously introduced by the distinguished Senator from New York (Mr. Kennedy). In the course of his remarks, Senator Kennedy gave full credit to the many contributions which President Johnson has made to the welfare of the United States and said in part:

"... and said in part:"

"I have not come here tonight to discuss the problems of John Lindsay."

There being no objection, the addresses and articles were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

REMARKS OF HONORABLE ROBERT F. KENNEDY, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AT DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE DINNER, AT THE AMERICANA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 6, 1967

Senator Kennedy: Mr. President, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Vice President, Miss Johnson—Lynda Bird, ladies and gentlemen: I have just returned from England, and I had hoped to have the opportunity to introduce President Johnson to you, the New Yorkers. As you remember, just three years ago he was kind enough to come up and introduce me to you, so I wanted to return the favor, and I looked forward to doing so.

If I may take a few minutes of your time, I would like to say some of the things that I had hoped to say prior to the time that he spoke.

Webster defines greatness as largeness in size, being much above the average in magnitude, intensity and importance. That definition could have been written for the man who just spoke to you, and which I had hoped to have the honor to introduce.

The height of his aim, the breadth of his achievements, the record of his past, and the promises of his future, all these bespeak the largeness of size, magnitude of effort, that intensity of devotion, and that importance of accomplishment. He came to lead this nation at a time of uncertainty and danger, pouring out his own strength to renew the strength and the purpose of all of the people of this nation, and of the nation itself.

Since that day (he has borne the burdens few other men have ever borne in the history of the world, without hope or desire or thought to escape them.

This, I think, sums up the difficulties and responsibilities which have rested on the President's shoulders ever since he assumed office.

The introduction was also a mark of understanding by a great Senator of the responsibilities which are entailed in the office of the Presidency and which he— as no other Member of the Senate—has such a great and profound understanding.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remarks of the distinguished Senator from New York (Mr. Kennedy), as well as those by the President of the United States, be incorporated at this point in the Record. I also ask unanimous consent that various newspaper stories covering the program of the New York event of June 3, 1967, be incorporated in the Record.
The Republican Party told us last November—and they have repeated it many times loudly since—that they know they are going to repeal a large part of this program. They are going to fight us every inch of the way. They are out to destroy this progress.

But I am here tonight to tell you something else: Before we are finished, they are going—really going—to know they have been in a fight anywhere, who could seriously advance the cause of peace and union.

I will tell you tonight that your President has been ready for more than three long years to talk to any person, anywhere, who prefers to talk instead of fight.

I saw not long ago a charge by some of the Republicans that the President would “spend the country into bankruptcy.”

That charge was made against Franklin Roosevelt. He answered it by saying, “We are not going to turn back the clock.” I saw an opinion poll, not long ago, which showed the President’s popularity at a very low ebb.

That poll rated Harry Truman—but it didn’t bother President Truman. He just simply went back to work, made one more historic decision and then said, “If you can’t stand the heat—get out of the kitchen.”

My Democratic friends, let us say here and now tonight: We Democrats can stand the heat.

We believe that history, when it is written, will not be the story of the doubters. Their fate, in the future, will not be headlines, but it will just be a footnote here and there.

For we know history deals with acts; with dreams that have been translated into reality; with victories that are won or lost. History deals with promises made and promises kept.

To make promises and to keep promises; to keep them at home and to keep them abroad is something that the Democratic Party is dedicated to.

To you Democrats who support that party with your talents and with your money, I have come here tonight to meet with three groups of you in the Month of June of this year to tell you how much I appreciate the men that you have sent to help me in the Congress, the men that make up the New York Democratic Delegation in the Senate led by Senator Kennedy and in the House led by Congressman Celler.

That delegation has day by day, week by week, month by month, helped the Democratic Party in this nation build a record of progress; build a record of prosperity. We have moved more than six million people out of the poverty level up to where they could have a decent income.

We have raised the minimum wage for $1 million others this year and we have extended its coverage to seven million more that never knew it before.

Yes, the Democratic Party and the Democratic Delegation from New York are dedicated to giving the greatest good to the greatest number.

We warn and we pray that we may have prosperity, progress, and peace in the world. But until we do, we must try to find the areas of agreement that unite us instead of the few things that divide us.

We Democrats don’t always see everything the same way. If we did, we would all want exactly the same wife. But we do have tolerance, patience, and understanding for different and dissenting viewpoints, provided in the end—after we reason together—we all rally around the banner to do the job for the people who need it most.

We are the Party of All the People.

To those of you who provide that leadership—and provide that support—and give us that comfort, that strength, when the going is hard—when it takes courage to stand up and be counted—those of you are the ones that make us grateful and make us proud of the Party that we belong to.

Thank you for coming here tonight.