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Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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* "required information"
Jon Tester:

Thanks, Jon. You know, it's been great working with Jon. I think we make a great team back there. He's more than my colleague, Jon is my friend. And we sure do like being 'Team Montana' in Washington. He really is making Washington look a lot like more like Montana. Let's hear it for Jon!

Introduction:

What a great night, a major night. And what better place, than Butte America?!
We all know that events like this don’t come together over night. It’s like a duck swimming across the pond: on top of the surface the duck glides smoothly. But underneath, his legs are cranking like the dickens.

Let's give a big hand to Chairman Dennis McDonald. And to Art Noonan. And Alicia Pichette and Dave Hunter and everyone who made this event possible!

You know this isn't the first time Butte has taken center stage during a Presidential election.

Roosevelt Visit

On September 19, 1932 a young Democratic governor running for President, facing a nation mired in Depression, stood right here in Butte, Montana.
He offered two stark contrasts for the country's future.

He said, quote:

"This is, my friends, the issue of the campaign:

--on one side cynical and unsympathetic acceptance
of things as they are

--on the other, determination and faith in the
possibility of change, of progress, and of a new deal."

That year, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was overwhelmingly elected. And with him a new age of progressive government began.

Now tonight -- more than 75 years later -- we again have two fine presidential candidates. We are again in Butte, and again at the dawn of a new era in Montana, and in America.
Tonight we unite the strength and resolve from our past, with the hope and potential of our future. Tonight we continue to move forward and do what's right for our state. Tonight we begin to build a better Montana.

We’re not done yet

We’re glad the eyes of the nation are upon us tonight. Why? Because we’re proud to be Montanans.

We're cut from the same cloth as the farmers and ranchers who survived an unforgiving wilderness.

We sent the first woman to Congress.

We're the Railroaders who built lines across our state.

Hey, we're [Evil] Knievel. And we’re not done yet!
Questions:

Now, I’m to ask you a few questions.

We’re not done yet because:

• We’re not going to support a war without end in Iraq.
  Are you with me?

• Big insurance companies shouldn’t keep getting richer, while our kids and families continue to suffer.
  Are you with me?

• We’re tired of seeing record profits in oil company boardrooms, while we go bankrupt at the pump. Are you with me?

• We're not done yet because our veterans fought for their country; they shouldn't have to fight for health care when they get home. Are you with me?
• We’re not done yet because Climate Change is real and we can’t let the naysayers stand in the way. Are you with me?

Butte, the Mining City

This is a very special night indeed.

It's a special night for Butte, the heart of our state. The Butte spirit is legendary, from the hard work and grit of the miners who built the largest copper mine in the country, to the statesmanship of Butte's greatest son Mike Mansfield -- Butte holds a special place for all of us.

And I'm especially grateful to Butte. I got my start here, in a sense.
It was the folks right here -- at a mile high and a mile deep -- that propelled us to victory. This ranch kid from Helena won in Butte, Montana. And I will NEVER forget it.

Harp Cote:

When I decided to run for Congress 34 years ago no one knew me from Adam. I was just a ranch kid from Helena. So I came to Butte. And everyone said I had meet this guy. His endorsement was key. He’s now become a legend. The dean of all Butte Democrats.

So I sat down with him, 34 years ago. He looked me up and down. Grilled me on the issues. Then looked me in the eye and said, “Max, I’m with you.”

Harp Cote changed my life forever. Harp’s sitting at my table tonight. Harp stand up so we can applaud your lifetime of service to Montana Democrats! You’re a great friend.
Hope:

But this election isn’t about me. It’s not about Barack or Hilary. It’s about all of you. It’s about the future of Montana and America.

As Roosevelt said: “determination and faith in the possibility of change, of progress.”

My friends, those are the words of hope. Hope for a better future. Hope for a better Montana.

Thank you.

Brian Schweitzer

I have perhaps the biggest honor of the night. I get to introduce that farmer from Whitefish.

Brian came into office on the promise a New Day in Montana.
• And what a new day it’s been since he took charge.

• Montanans have seen record job growth and record low unemployment.

• Historic tax relief that included a $400 property tax rebate for every Montana homeowner.

• Increases in the state’s energy production, along with long overdue investments in “clean and green” sources.

• A record increase in school funding. The list goes on and on.

Today, Montana is on the Move! And this progress is due in large part to the Brian’s leadership, his tenacity, and his vision for the future of our state.

So, without further delay, let me introduce my friend and our Governor, Brian Schweitzer.