

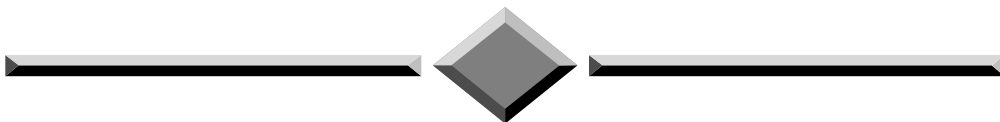
1979 Speeches

APRIL

04/28 JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER, LINCOLN

JULY

07/10 HIGH PLAINS OGALLALA AQUIFER REGIONAL ST



April 28, 1979

Jefferson Jack Day Dinner
Lincoln, Nebraska

MY ASSIGNED DUTY TONIGHT IS TO INTRODUCE OUR FEATURED SPEAKER. THIS IS A TASK I HAVE PERFORMED AT THIS GREAT ANNUAL GATHERING OF DEMOCRATS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT THE HONOR THIS TIME IS A PARTICULARLY PLEASANT ONE BECAUSE OUR SPEAKER IS AN OLD FRIEND AND AN IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ALLY OF BOTH YOUR U. S. SENATOR AND A MAN WHO COMES FROM THE NEXT BEST STATE IN THE UNION AFTER NEBRASKA.

BUT BEFORE I DO THAT, LET ME GIVE YOU AN IMPRESSION OF THE PLACE YOU HAVE EXILED ME TO FOR SIX YEARS, THE GOOD LORD AND PAT WILLING. WASHINGTON IS AN EXCITING AND BEAUTIFUL CITY THAT REMAINS THAT WAY IN SPITE OF THE WALL TO WALL PEOPLE AND UNBELIEVABLE TRAFFIC! TO PROVE THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED "POTOMAC FEVER" I CITE THAT I HAVE NOT JOINED THE LATE, BELEAGUERED REPUBLICAN AND LINCOLN JOURNAL CANDIDATE FOR THE U. S. SENATE IN JOGGING! AS FAR AS I KNOW I AM ONE OF ONLY THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT WHO DO NOT DAILY TRAMPLE DOWN THE GREEN GRASS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO NOT RUN TO WORK WITH MY NEIGHBOR, SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE OF WISCONSIN, BUT SOMETIMES HE RIDES HOME WITH ME, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SENATE IS IN SESSION VERY LATE AT NIGHT. THIS SHOWS THE COURAGE, OR LACK THEREOF, OF BILL PROXMIRE. HE SEEMS TO THINK IT IS SAFER TO RIDE HOME

WITH THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA AT THE WHEEL THAN BRAVING THE PERILS OF TROTTING AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C., LATE AT NIGHT.

I AM NOT SURE OF HIS JUDGMENT NOR HAVE I EVER SEEN HIS FAMED "GOLDEN FLEECE" BUT I REJECT IN ADVANCE ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE AWARD.

IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THERE ARE MANY GOOD AND CAPABLE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON. THE POSITIVES OUTWEIGH THE NEGATIVES, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF BOTH, DESPITE THE DAILY DOSE OF MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE CONTRARY.

I AM PROUD TO SERVE IN A DEMOCRATIC CONTROLLED SENATE THAT IS AND WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE EVER-INCREASING COMPLEXITIES OF OUR SOCIETY AND WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC CONTROLLED SENATE THAT THIS WEEK, REJECTING CHALLENGES FROM THE FAR RIGHT AND FAR LEFT TO WRECK THE BUDGET, THAT ACCOMPLISHED WHAT MOST THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE. . . WE PASSED A POLICY FOR A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1981, A BALANCED BUDGET AGAIN IN FISCAL 1982 WITH PROVISIONS FOR A 55 BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT IN THAT YEAR.

IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC SENATE THAT ACCOMPLISHED THAT FEAT, REMARKABLE IN THAT IT WAS ONLY THE SECOND TIME FOR SUCH RESTRAINT IN THE LAST 19 YEARS.

IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC SENATE THAT SHOULDERED THIS DIFFICULT TASK WITHOUT EMASCULATING VITAL DEFENSE OR SOCIAL PROGRAMS FOR WHICH OUR PARTY AND ITS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CAN POINT WITH PRIDE.

IT IS THE SAME STORY IN WASHINGTON AND ACROSS THE NATION AS IT IS IN NEBRASKA. THE MAJORITY TRUST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BECAUSE WE REALLY DO CARE!

CARING ABOUT PEOPLE MAY NOT BE AN EXCLUSIVE VIRTUE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BUT OUR CREDENTIALS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED!!

IN THIS REGARD, YOU HEARD ME SAY EARLIER THAT THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON! I DO NOT WISH TO BRING A SAD NOTE INTO THESE HAPPY GOINGS ON BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY THAT HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ME. YESTERDAY WE GATHERED AT THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL TO PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS TO ^A GALLANT LADY, OF TREMENDOUS COURAGE, ONE OF THE GREAT GOOD PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON WHO MADE HER MARK, ASIDE AND APART FROM HER ILLUSTRIOUS HUSBAND, ON OUR NATION'S CAPITOL, OUR LIVES AND OUR FUTURE AND OUR ABILITY TO FACE THAT FUTURE WITH MORE CONFIDENCE. MANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT KNEW HER WELL.

SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON, A COURAGEOUS LADY, AND HER NAME WAS, IS, AND FOREVER WILL BE MARVELLA BAYH, THE WIFE OF OUR COLLEAGUE, SENATOR BIRCH BAYH OF INDIANA.

HER FINAL MESSAGE, FOR US, APPROPRIATELY PRINTED IN HER MEMORIAL SERVICE PROGRAM YESTERDAY, WAS TO ME MOVING AS WE REFLECT ON THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THIS 47 YEAR OLD LADY HAS MADE TO OUR SOCIETY AND OUR EVALUATION OF OURSELVES. IT READS:

"When they told me there was treatment but no cure at this time, I dropped to my knees," she said. "Two things from out of my past, when I went to church as a child, came back to me. Number one, 'Where can I go but to the Lord?' and number two, 'I am weak but He is strong.'"

The third feeling I had was, 'When life comes down to basics, really how little control we all have over our own lives.' And it also came to me how, even if we live to be 100, how really short life here is. And therefore, it's important to enjoy it and not rush so fast and take time to smell the roses. . ."

Marvella Bayh

WITH US TONIGHT IS ANOTHER GOOD PERSON FROM WASHINGTON, A MAN WHO IS, IN MY OPINION, THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

GEORGE MC GOVERN HAS SERVED SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE NATION IN THE CONGRESS FOR 22 YEARS, THE LAST 18 IN THE U. S. SENATE.

GEORGE IS THE RANKING MAJORITY MEMBER ON THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND ALSO WITH ED ZORINSKY ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

AND SO, MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS, I AM PROUD AND PLEASED TO PRESENT TO YOU THE MAN WHO, HAD AMERICANS BEEN BETTER INFORMED IN 1972, WOULD LIKELY NOT HAVE BEEN HERE TONIGHT BUT WOULD HAVE ~~BEEN~~ COMPLETED HIS LAST TWO YEARS AS A DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT OF THIS UNITED STATES.

BUT SINCE THAT MISTAKE IN 1972 THE SENATE HAS BENEFITTED FROM HIS DEDICATION, CONTRIBUTIONS AND OUTSTANDING TALENTS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A GREAT LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA - AND FRIEND,
GEORGE MC GOVERN

11

OPENING ADDRESS
HIGH PLAINS-OGALLALA AQUIFER REGIONAL STUDY
July 10, 1979

I'M VERY PLEASED TO HOST THIS BRIEFING OF CONGRESS ON THE HIGH PLAINS-OGALLALA AQUIFER REGIONAL STUDY, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO FIND WAYS TO PRESERVE THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US GATHERED HERE. A SUCCESSFUL STUDY WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION FROM ALL STATES AND AGENCIES INVOLVED, AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE TAKEN TIME FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO GATHER HERE THIS MORNING.

MOST OF US HERE ARE FROM THE HIGH PLAINS AREA, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR STOMACH AND POCKETBOOK HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN BOTH THE AREA AND THIS VERY IMPORTANT STUDY.

MORE THAN 220 THOUSAND SQUARE MILES OF COLORADO, KANSAS, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS OVERLIE THAT VAST UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCE KNOWN AS THE OGALLALA AQUIFER. IN 1974 THE FARMERS OF THIS AREA APPLIED 14,270,226 ACRE FEET OF WATER TO NEARLY 10 MILLION ACRES. THAT'S MORE THAN 49 TRILLION GALLONS OF WATER! THAT'S A LOT OF WATER APPLIED TO A LOT OF ACRES OF WHAT IS NOW LUSH, FERTILE FARMLAND.

LESS THAN 30 YEARS AGO THIS REGION WAS OF UNREALIZED POTENTIAL. THERE WERE MORE POTENTIALLY IRRIGABLE ACRES OF LAND THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE COUNTRY AND ONE OF THE LARGEST AQUIFERS COUPLED WITH HUGE NATURAL GAS RESERVES. THESE FABULOUS RESOURCES WERE TAPPED AND BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE FERTILE SOILS OF THE HIGH PLAINS IN THE 1950's RESULTING IN OUR AREA BECOMING A MAJOR SUPPLIER TO THE NATION FOR FOOD AND FIBER AND A PRIMARY SOURCE OF EXPORTS TO FOREIGN MARKETS.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM CROPS IRRIGATED FROM THE OGALLALA AQUIFER ARE IN EXCESS OF \$2.6 BILLION ANNUALLY. EVEN IN WASHINGTON THOSE ARE BIG DOLLARS. THE BIGGEST AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE HIGH PLAINS-OGALLALA AQUIFER REGION IS NOT CROPS, BUT IS LIVESTOCK. SINCE 1970 THE CATTLE INDUSTRY HAS EXPLODED. BY 1973 A FIVE STATE SOUTHERN PLAINS FEEDING REGION WAS MARKETING 10 MILLION HEAD OF CATTLE EACH YEAR REPRESENTING 40% OF THE NATION'S FED BEEF MARKET, AND IT'S EVEN LARGER TODAY.

THE GROWTH HAS INDEED BEEN PHENOMENAL AND THE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR OF THE GROWTH OF THE REGION HAS BEEN THE ABILITY TO IRRIGATE THE LAND THANKS TO THE AQUIFER, THE DISCOVERY OF NEARBY ENERGY AND THE COMING OF ADVANCED PUMPING TECHNOLOGY. SO, WATER, ENERGY, AND GOOD FARMERS BUILT THIS AGRICULTURAL EMPIRE AS WE KNOW IT. FROM IT COMES MANY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ASSOCIATED AGRIBUSINESSES, FARM MACHINERY, FERTILIZER PLANTS, PROCESSING

PLANTS AND MUCH MORE, ALL ADDING SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMY AND ALL DEPENDENT UPON THE AQUIFER.

IN A FEW SHORT YEARS THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE REGION HAS BECOME HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE WATER OF THE OGALLALA, AND BECAUSE OF THAT THESE GREAT ADVANCES MAY BE SHORT-LIVED. THE IMMINENT DEPLETION OF THE OGALLALA AQUIFER AND THE OIL AND GAS RESERVES THAT FUEL THE AREA FORETELLS SEVERE ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS IF THE PRESENT COURSE IS MAINTAINED.

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE SIX GOVERNORS WHO FORMED THE PANEL THAT BECAME THE HIGH PLAINS STUDY COUNCIL, WHO WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR THIS STUDY AND SUBSEQUENTLY DESIGNED ITS GENERAL OUTLINE. IT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT THESE SIX STATES HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ANSWERS TO ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT LIES IN A JOINT EFFORT OF THE STATES, CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THE FIRST STEP WAS THE ENACTMENT OF SECTION 193 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1976 WHICH SPELLED OUT AND FUNDED THE STUDY. THE LAW POINTS OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF THE REGION FOR THE REST OF THE NATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER TO THE REGION.

CONGRESS DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO STUDY THE DEPLETION OF THE RESOURCES, TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR INCREASING THE WATER SUPPLY, AND TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES WHICH MIGHT ASSURE THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND

VITALITY OF THE REGION.

SO, LET US WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY TOGETHER TO PRESERVE WHAT WE HAVE AND MAINTAIN THE PROSPEROUS CLIMATE OF THE HIGH PLAINS-OGALLALA AQUIFER FAMILY.

I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAVE HAD THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT FOR THE MOST PART ALL ARE REPRESENTED HERE TODAY. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND DEDICATION.

A SPECIAL THANKS IS DUE SENATOR BELLMON FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE CONGRESS IN FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION. WORKING TOGETHER WE WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS.