REMARKS AT FUND-RAISING EVENT HONORING REP. MARGARET M.
HECKLER, R-MASS. -- OCTOBER 30, 1967

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE TONIGHT
SINCE IT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW VERY PLEASED
I AM THAT THE TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
SAW FIT LAST FALL TO SEND MARGARET HECKLER TO THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. I ONLY WISH I COULD STAY TO SEE THE
MOVIE WITH YOU.

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE A FINE MOVIE COMING UP IN JUST
A FEW MINUTES IS A REMINDER TO ME TO KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF.
HOWEVER, THE TRUTH IS I DON'T NEED A REMINDER. WHENEVER I AM
IN DANGER OF TALKING TOO LONG IN PUBLIC, I RECALL WHAT
HAPPENED TO ME AT A DINNER PARTY ONE NIGHT. I WAS THE
SPEAKER OF THE EVENING, AND I WAS JUST NICELY GETTING INTO
MY TALK WHEN MY WIFE BETTY SLIPPED A NOTE UNDER MY NOSE.
IT SAID WAS K-I-S-S. I SMILED BACK AT HER, THINKING IT WAS A MESSAGE OF ENDEARMENT, AFFECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT. WHEN I FINALLY SAT DOWN, I THANKED HER. "YOU'RE ALL WET," SHE SAID. "WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU WAS, 'KEEP IT SHORT, STUPID.'"

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO BE BRIEF ABOUT MARGARET HECKLER BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE SAID ABOUT HER. FIRST OF ALL, YOU PEOPLE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SO ENERGETIC AND HARD-WORKING A PERSON REPRESENTING YOU IN THE CONGRESS. I KNOW AND YOU KNOW THAT MARGARET IS SPARING NO EFFORT TO GIVE YOU THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE AND TO VOTE YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN THE HOUSE.

MARGARET IS A DOER. IT'S VERY APPROPRIATE THAT SHE REPRESENTS AN AREA THAT LIVES IN THE PAUL REVERE STORY, BECAUSE MARGARET HECKLER IS THAT KIND OF AN AMERICAN. IF IT
HAD BEEN A WOMAN WHO HAD SPREAD THE ALARM THAT NIGHT IN APRIL, 1775, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE LIKE MARGARET HECKLER.

I WOULD JUST MAKE THE POINT THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF SPIRIT WE NEED IN AMERICA TODAY, THE KIND OF PATRIOTISM THAT CRIES OUT IN SUPPORT OF OUR COUNTRY. INSTEAD WE FIND SOME AMERICANS FLEEING TO CANADA TO ESCAPE INDUCTION INTO THE ARMY AND THE OTHERS WHO ARE BURNING THEIR DRAFT CARDS IN A CONTEMPTUOUS GESTURE OF NON-LOYALTY.

IF PAUL REVERE HAD BEEN THAT KIND OF MAN, HE WOULD NOT HAVE RIDDEN IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT TO EVERY MIDDLESEX VILLAGE AND TOWN. HE WOULD HAVE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERs AND SAID, "WHY ME? AM I THE ONLY MAN IN TOWN WITH A HORSE?"

THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WOULD WANT TO SPEAK FOR YOU. BUT MARGARET HECKLER IS. SHE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE WHEN YOU NEED HER.
VLADIMIR KAZAN-KAMAREK OF WELLSELEY HILLS FOUND THAT OUT WHEN THE COMMUNISTS TOSSED HIM INTO A CZECH JAIL UNDER AN EIGHT-YEAR SENTENCE. MARGARET IMMEDIATELY WENT TO BAT FOR HIM AND IS CREDITED WITH HELPING TO OBTAIN KAZAN'S RELEASE.

YOU KNOW, BOBBY KENNEDY SHOWED UP AT KAZAN'S NEWS CONFERENCE AT KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHEN KAZAN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. AND, JUST TO SHOW HOW FAIR HE WAS, BOBBY PRAISED MRS. HECKLER'S ROLE AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS BROTHER TEDDY IN ARRANGING FOR KAZAN'S RELEASE FROM PRISON.

THE REASON BOBBY HAS SUCH APPEAL IS BECAUSE OF THAT HAIR, YOU KNOW. I'M TOLD BOBBY'S HAIRDO RESEMBLES NOTHING SO MUCH AS A HAYSTACK IN HEAT. BUT MARGARET HECKLER HAS HER OWN SPECIAL BRAND OF CHARISMA...OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT, AND NEITHER WOULD YOU.

IT'S NOT ONLY THE CZECHS WHO HAVE FOUND OUT THAT
MARGARET CAN BE TOUGH. SHE HAS SERVED ON A HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE MISUSE OF THE UNITED STATES PROPERTY THAT BECAME SURPLUS WITH THE U.S.-NATO WITHDRAWAL FROM FRANCE...AND SHE HAS TAKEN SEVERAL SWINGS AT THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION FOR KEEPING THE TARIFF ON TEXTILES AT A LOW LEVEL.

MARGARET IS ALWAYS AT WORK, DOING A JOB FOR YOU. AS YOU KNOW, MUCH OF THE WORK IN CONGRESS IS DONE IN COMMITTEE. MARGARET IS A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH DOES CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN AID SLEUTHING.

MARGARET IS TOUGH, BUT SHE NEVER FORGETS SHE'S A WOMAN. NEITHER DO HER LADY FRIENDS, AND THEY'RE MIGHT PROUD OF HER...AS WE ALL ARE. THAT IS WHY SHE WAS CHOSEN AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERATION.

MARGARET IS ABLE. THE CLEAREST PROOF OF THIS IS THAT THE OTHER FRESHMEN WHO WERE ELECTED TO THE HOUSE WITH HER CHOSE HER AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THEIR GROUP, THE 90TH CONGRESS CLUB.

I WOULD BE REMISS AT THIS POINT IF I DID NOT PAY TRIBUTE TO MR. HECKLER. JOHN HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO MARGARET IN EVERY WAY. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT HE HAS MADE THE ADJUSTMENT TO WASHINGTON LIFE, AND THAT WASHINGTON HAS TAKEN BOTH JOHN AND MARGARET TO ITS BOSOM. THEY'RE A FINE COUPLE, AND IT IS THIS KIND OF FAMILY STABILITY THAT AMERICA DESPERATELY NEEDS TODAY.

I HOPE I HAVEN'T DISAPPOINTED ANY OF YOU BY BEING SO NONPARTISAN TONIGHT. ACTUALLY, I HAVE SAVED THAT FOR THE LAST. IN LEAVING YOU, I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS ONE FINAL WORD TO
THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
GOODNIGHT, ROCKY. GOODNIGHT, DICK. GOODNIGHT, GEORGE. GOODNIGHT, RONNIE. GOODNIGHT, MR. PERCY. AND GOODNIGHT HARDLD STASSEN, WHEREVER YOU ARE.

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Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to be here tonight since it gives me an opportunity to tell you how very pleased I am that the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts saw fit last fall to send Margaret Heckler to the United States House of Representatives. I only wish I could stay to see the movie with you.

The fact that you have a fine movie coming up in just a few minutes is a reminder to me to keep my remarks brief. However, the truth is I don't need a reminder. Whenever I am in danger of talking too long in public, I recall what happened to me at a dinner party one night. I was the speaker of the evening, and I was just getting into my talk when my wife Betty slipped a note under my nose. All it said was K-I-S-S. I smiled back at her, thinking it was a message of endearment, affection and encouragement. When I bent down, I thanked her. "You're all wet," she said. "What I was trying to tell you was, 'Keep it short, stupid.'"

It's pretty hard to be brief about Margaret Heckler because there is much to be said about her. First of all, you people are fortunate to have so energetic a person representing you in the Congress. I know that Margaret is sparing no effort to give you the best service possible and to vote your best interests in the House.

Margaret is a doer. It's very appropriate that she represents an area that lives in the Paul Revere story, because Margaret Heckler is that kind of an American. If it had been a woman who had spread the alarm that night in April, 1775, it have been someone like Margaret Heckler.

I would just make the point that this is the kind of spirit we need in America today, the kind of patriotism that cries out in support of our country. Instead we find Americans fleeing to Canada to escape induction into the Army, or burning their draft cards in a contemptuous gesture of non-loyalty.

If Paul Revere had been that kind of man, he would not have ridden in the dead of night to every Middlesex village and town. He would have shrugged his shoulders and said, "Why me? Am I the only man in town with a horse?"

That's not the kind of person you would want to speak for you. But Margaret Heckler is. She will always speak for you, and be there when you need her.

Vladimir Kazan-Kamenev found that out when the Communists tossed him into a Czech jail under an eight-year sentence. Margaret went to bat for him and was credited with helping to obtain his release.

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You know, Bobby Kennedy showed up at Kazan’s news conference at Kennedy International Airport when Kazan returned to the United States. And, just to show how fair he was, Bobby praised Mrs. Heckler’s role as well as that of his brother Teddy in arranging Kazan’s release from prison.

It’s not only the Czechs who have found out that Margaret can be tough. She has served on a House subcommittee investigating possible misuse of the United States property that became surplus with the U.S.-NATO withdrawal from France... and she has taken several swings at the Johnson Administration for keeping the tariff on textiles at a low level.

Margaret is always at work, doing a job for you. As you know, much of the work in Congress is done in committee. Margaret is a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Government Operations Committee, which does considerable foreign aid sleuthing.

Margaret is tough, but she never forgets she’s a woman. Neither do her lady friends, and they’re mighty proud of her... as we all are. That is why she was chosen as the keynote speaker for this year’s National Convention of the Republican Women’s Federation.

Margaret is able. The clearest proof of this is that the other freshmen who were elected to the House with her chose her as vice-president of their group, the 90th Congress Club.

I would be remiss at this point if I did not pay tribute to Mr. Heckler. John has been a great help to Margaret in every way. I am happy to report that he has made the adjustment to Washington life, and that Washington has taken both John and Margaret to its bosom. They’re a fine couple, and it is this kind of family stability that America desperately needs today.

I hope I haven’t disappointed any of you by being so nonpartisan tonight. Actually, I have saved that for the last. In leaving you, I’d like to address one final word to the next President of the United States.


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