

The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/29/75 - Remarks at a Birthday Party in Honor of Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS- SENATOR STEVENS'

BIRTHDAY PARTY

THANK YOU, TED (Senator Stevens introduces you)

GOVERNOR HAMMOND

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG

SECRETARY KISSINGER

MAYOR SULLIVAN

MR. TOBIN

HONORED GUESTS INCLUDING MY OLD FRIEND WALLY HICKEL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN ALASKA AGAIN, EVEN FOR SUCH
A SHORT VISIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR
IN ANCHORAGE WHEN THE SUN RISES AT 8:40 IN THE MORNING, SETS
AT 2:54 IN THE AFTERNOON, AND THE NIGHTS ARE 18 HOURS LONG.
ALL I CAN SAY TO THAT IS: WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO HOLD A PARTY!

AND WHAT A GREAT GUY TO HONOR AT A PARTY! TED

STEVENS IS ONE OF THE MOST CONSCIENTIOUS, CAPABLE AND

ASTUTE LEGISLATORS WE HAVE IN WASHINGTON. IN FACT,

SENATOR STEVENS FLEW IN FROM FAIRBANKS WITH ME AND I NEVER

REALIZED HOW MUCH OF A DIPLOMAT HE IS AS WELL, UNTIL WE WERE

COMING IN OVER COOK INLET.

I TOLD HIM THAT EVERY MORNING I LIKE TO TAKE AN OUTDOOR SWIM
IN MY POOL IN WASHINGTON AND HOW I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT

TAKING A DIP IN COOK INLET TOMORROW MORNING. HE SAID,

"MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND THAT."

I SAID, "TAKING A DIP IN COOK INLET?" HE SAID, "NO --

JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!"

THIS YEAR WE'RE CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 200TH BIRTHDAY,

THE 16TH YEAR OF ALASKAN STATEHOOD, AND TED STEVENS' 52ND

BIRTHDAY. THAT'S A YOUNG COUNTRY, A YOUNG STATE, AND

WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, A DYNAMIC YOUNG SENATOR AS

WELL.

I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT SENATOR STEVENS IS

ACCOMPLISHING.

ALL ALASKANS, REGARDLESS OF PARTY,

SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF HIM.

I FIND HIM A CONSTANT

SOURCE OF SOUND ADVICE ABOUT ALASKAN AFFAIRS.

TED STEVENS HAS ALREADY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY
WINNING A LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG SENATE REPUBLICANS. HE
EARNED MUCH RECOGNITION FOR HIS STRONG FIGHT FOR THE
ALASKA PIPELINE.

HE IS A LEADING ADVOCATE OF A SOUND ENERGY POLICY. HE

HAS ALSO WON PLAUDITS FOR HIS HARD WORK IN SECURING

PASSAGE OF THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT.

TED, I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND YOUR MANY

FRIENDS.

THIS MORNING, I TOOK A TEN-MILE TOUR ALONG THE
TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE. I VISITED A PUMP STATION AND
TALKED TO SOME OF THE DEDICATED WORKERS. I WAS
FASCINATED BY WHAT I SAW AND HEARD.

I HAD BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE PIPELINE AND ITS IMPACT.

BUT ALL I HEARD -- ALL OF THE TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS

ON ALASKA -- CAN'T BEGIN TO CONVEY THE EXCITEMENT AND

OPTIMISM THAT I EXPERIENCED TODAY.

THE PIPELINE YOU ARE BUILDING IS AN ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL STEP IN THIS COUNTRY'S DRIVE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.
YOU KNOW, AND I KNOW, THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST END ITS
DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL.

THE TWO MILLION BARRELS OF OIL A DAY THAT WILL ULTIMATELY

FLOW THROUGH THE PIPELINE WILL NOT BY ITSELF REDUCE ENTIRELY

OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL.

BUT THAT AMOUNT OF OIL WILL

CONSTITUTE A LOUD AND CLEAR DECLARATION OF INTENT -- OUR

FIRM RESOLVE TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

MY VISIT HERE HAS GIVEN ME ANOTHER GLIMPSE OF

ALASKA'S REMARKABLE VITALITY AND WARM HOSPITALITY.

I WISH I COULD STAY LONGER.

TOMORROW I LEAVE FOR CHINA, THE PHILIPPINES AND

INDONESIA. MY TRIP TO THE PACIFIC REGION REAFFIRMS

AMERICA'S STRONG BELIEF THAT WE CANNOT ISOLATE OURSELVES

FROM OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE AT THE CROSSROADS OF

CONTINENTS KNOW THAT AMERICA'S DESTINY IS INSEPARABLY

LINKED TO THE DESTINY OF THE OTHER PACIFIC NATIONS.

THE RENEWAL OF THE HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT

EVENTS IN THE RECENT HISTORY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

I LEAVE FOR CHINA TOMORROW DETERMINED TO REAFFIRM AND
STRENGTHEN THAT IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP, TO SEEK BETTER
UNDERSTANDING, AND TO REASSERT AMERICA'S INTEREST IN LASTING
PEACE AND GREATER PROSPERITY FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLES OF ASIA.

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THANK YOU -- AND BEFORE I LEAVE -- SENATOR STEVENS,

FROM THOSE WHO LIVE DOWN BELOW, I BRING YOU BEST WISHES

AS YOU CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY.

END OF TEXT