

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 23, 1976

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
(Washington, D. C.)

---

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
AMERICAN OCEANIC ORGANIZATION BANQUET  
BALLROOM WEST, WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AT 8:00 P.M. EDT

Reverend Leach, Rudy, Charlie, distinguished members of the Congress and distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

First I want to apologize for being late. The last event I just left was the final windup of the National Commission on Water Quality, which goes out of existence this week after three years of effort and expenditure of \$17 million. And I think it has made some very useful suggestions both to the Congress and to the President.

I did not want to miss this opportunity of being with you tonight -- first, because of my deep personal affection and respect for the recipient of your award, and, secondly, because of my tremendous respect for you as a group and as an organization and for the tremendous contribution which you have made, your vision and foresight in anticipating ahead of the rest of the world some of the great opportunities and challenges which lie ahead of us in this area.

Now, if I can say, it was 16 years ago out in Ohio that I met this very remarkable man. He was an outstanding country editor. He had served 15 years in State and local office. And as a politician I was particularly impressed with the fact that he had never lost an election.

(Laughter)

I don't know if he had to apologize to the Senate twice in a year.

(Laughter)

My recommendation is the next time they get a Vice President, they get someone from the Congress. We executives are a little too independent thinking. That is an aside.

(Laughter)

When I met him, he was running for the Congress of the United States. I believed in this man, and it was a privilege to campaign for him. Frankly, not that he needed it. He had never lost an election before, never lost an election since, and he served eight terms in the Congress of the United States.

I think perhaps the only thing maybe I could have done to help him was that we in the course of a day of campaigning came to a group which was a Spanish-speaking

MORE

group. And having spent a great deal of time and many years working in the Western Hemisphere and having in New York State a large Spanish-speaking population -- in the City alone it is a million -- I was used to campaigning in Spanish.

If I remember correctly Charlie, this group was gathered in support of an opponent.

(Laughter)

But I never was deterred by a group, as long as they gathered together and were willing to listen. So I got on top of the sound truck and took over where their predecessor had left off. I haven't checked with Charlie as to how he did in the district, but we had a very pleasant and friendly encounter.

All of us here tonight agree on one thing -- that Charlie Mosher was elected and continuously re-elected to Congress, and that the winners were not only the people of his Ohio district but all Americans for generations to come, who have benefited and will continue to benefit from his vision, his actions regarding the potential of the oceans.

As he completes his 16 years in Congress, Charlie Mosher also leaves an outstanding record in education, civil liberties, science and promoting new resources of energy. But it is in his unmatched record in matters involving the oceans, the Great Lakes, the American coastal waters, which brings us all together tonight to pay a deeply deserved tribute to this statesman of the seas.

Because of Charlie Mosher's initiatives, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was created. He is called the Father of NOAA, and a proud father he can be.

Because of Congressman Mosher's leadership this Nation wisely adopted the Coastal Zone Management Act. Because of Congressman Mosher's determination to protect the marine environment, we have legislation dealing with ocean dumping. And thanks to Charlie Mosher we also have legislation to protect marine mammals.

We have the Sea Grant Program to help support education and research. And the international decade for oceanographic exploration has been launched.

These and other accomplishments, along with his ranking position on the House Science and Technology Committee, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, explain why you have chosen Charlie Mosher unanimously for your highest tribute.

There is no horizon that is brighter for the United States than the horizon of the oceans, no greater opportunity, no more critical a challenge. And few Americans have understood this promise of the sea more fully than the man we honor tonight. No American has done more to promote the twin goals of realizing the sea's tremendous bounty while protecting the ocean environment upon which that bounty depends in the future.

It is therefore with the greatest satisfaction that I now present the coveted 1976 Neptune Award of your organization for "integrity, diligence and foresight in ocean affairs; for leadership in areas vital to the consistency of the ocean community and the Nation; and for instruction, wise counsel and understanding of the benefits of a national oceans program.

"In appreciation to a true gentleman of the United States Congress, for a distinguished career of public service, to Charles Adams Mosher."

(Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, I think in looking at the beautiful sculpture here, that he is beginning to look a little like Neptune himself.

(Laughter)

CONGRESSMAN MOSHER: I want to say how much personally I appreciate your coming here this evening, how much the AOO organization and all of us here appreciate it because of your busy schedule. It was wonderful of you to come.

You did rescue me from an impossible situation down in Ohio in 1960 because of your enthusiastic skills in handling a wonderful group of citizens and your facility with the Spanish language.

I will never forget this wonderful evening, despite your overly extravagant praise. Mrs. Sullivan, my chairman and my leader with whom I shared everything that you said, and I followed her leadership, I hope she won't feel I am too greedy.

(Laughter)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I would just like to say, ladies and gentlemen, that to me Charlie personifies the extraordinary strength and vitality of our great Nation and this wonderful free society of ours, where someone who cares and someone who has the vision -- and the Bible says that "Without vision ye shall perish" -- who has the vision and courage and eloquence he has to be able to come to Congress and put forward the ideas to further those, to get the support, that this is what has made our country great. And I would like to say that I think we are awfully lucky that there are Charlie Moshers in the United States and that there always will be.

Thank you.

END

(AT 8:10 P.M. EDT)