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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR

SENATOR SPARKMAN BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1974

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO BE INVITED TO APPEAR
AT THE SENATE CAUCUS ROOM -- AT LEAST, FOR LUNCH.

AND I COULDN'T THINK OF A HAPPIER OCCASION THAN
TO HELP MY GOOD FRIEND JOHN SPARKMAN CELEBRATE HIS
SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY. LOOKING AT IT IN FOOTBALL TERMS,
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT JOHN IS AT THAT IN-BETWEEN AGE:
TOO OLD FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA -- AND TOO YOUNG
FOR THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS.

AS I LOOK AT OUR GUEST OF HONOR TODAY, I FIND IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE CELEBRATING HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH
BIRTHDAY. THE YEARS REST SO LIGHTLY ON JOHN SPARKMAN.

AND JOHN'S ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.
ALTOGETHER HE HAS SERVED THIRTY-EIGHT MAGNIFICENT YEARS IN
THE HALLS OF CONGRESS -- SIX TERMS IN THE HOUSE AND THE
REMAINING YEARS IN THE SENATE.

BUT THIS OUTSTANDING RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT WAS
FORECAST MANY YEARS AGO.

JOHN SPARKMAN ONCE TOLD A COLLEGE CLASSMATE:

"DON'T WATCH A PARADE . . . GET IN IT . . . IF YOU GET IN AN
ORGANIZATION . . . SIT IN THE FRONT ROW AND BE PART OF EVERYTHING!"

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT TODAY, SENATOR JOHN JACKSON SPARKMAN SITS IN THE FRONT ROW OF OUR NATION'S LEGISLATORS AND IS PART OF EVERYTHING. AND NEXT YEAR I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH JOHN AND THE NEW CONGRESS TO ATTACK AND SOLVE THE MANY PROBLEMS OUR COMPLEX WORLD CONFRONTS US WITH.

THEY SAY THAT A MAN IS KNOWN BY THE COMPANY HE KEEPS --

AND SO THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT THAT COULD BE PAID TO ME,

IS TO CALL ME A FRIEND OF JOHN SPARKMAN.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *RH*
FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*
SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Remarks for
Senator Sparkman Luncheon

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Cleared by (please initial):

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- (X) Jack Marsh JEM
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