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Legis. Nick Calvo
Affairs x 6620

McGroarty/Martin
July 21, 1989
4:10 pm
[WAYS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WAYS AND MEANS BICENTENNIAL DINNER
THE CAPITOL
JULY 24, 1989
6:30 P.M.

Thank you. I am delighted to be here this evening to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the oldest committee in the history of Congress, with so many Ways and Means members, past and present.

I want to salute a few special friends here tonight. Dan Rostenkowski, Chairman of Ways and Means. My good friend and fellow Texan Bill Archer, ranking minority member. ~~And I want to say a special hello to a special guest: Senator William Proxmire.~~

Nick
Calvo
x 6620

Two hundred years is a long time -- a proud tradition for those of us who have had the honor to serve on Ways and Means. They say the only two things in life that you can count on are death and taxes. That means until God says your time is up -- your fate's in the hands of Ways and Means.

I began my career in Washington at this end of Pennsylvania Avenue, on this Committee. I took my seat down at the end of the table, and got a real political education.

Ways and Means is the engine room of democracy. Taxes, trade, growth, debt, the deficit, social security -- whatever the issue, Ways and Means is where the work gets done. This is where we forge **consensus** from the clashing of different views.

In this room sit the men and women whose decisions shape our nation -- who match national will and national resources. I've always maintained the deepest respect for the work you do -- and the way you do it.

What I learned as a member of Ways and Means has been invaluable. What I remember most about my time here is the collegiality. The sleeves-up atmosphere. The open and honest exchange of views. But above all, the readiness on both sides of the aisle to resolve honest differences in a spirit of good will -- for the good of this nation.

That's the spirit that upholds the finest tradition in the long history of this committee -- and it's the spirit that's going to see us through the tough work ahead.

It's a pleasure to be with you tonight -- to be among friends -- to share in this celebration. I will always be honored to call myself an alumnus of Ways and Means.

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