

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
ESTES KEFAUVER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 17, 1966

↳ We meet to help establish a living memorial to
a great man and a good friend.

It is fitting that we meet here, in this Caucus
Room, where Estes Kefauver so ably conducted hearings
of great value for ~~the forgotten man in our economy --~~
our Democracy
the consumer.

Estes Kefauver believed in people, and the people
believed in him.

He believed that everyone -- the worker, the ~~small~~ farmer, the ~~small~~ businessman -- should have a fair chance in life and a fair share in America's abundance.

↳ He believed in helping those who could not help themselves -- the aged, the children, the sick, the weak.

↳ And the people believed in him. They elected him repeatedly to the House of Representatives and to the Senate, and twice a great many of them did their level best to elect him to the highest office in the land.

↳ From his first day in Congress to his last -- the day before he died -- he worked, spoke, voted and fought for the public interest.

↳ He fought for civil rights and civil liberties; for public health; for public power and the Tennessee Valley Authority; for aid to the depressed areas of our country;

for a genuinely free and competitive economy; and for many other good causes.

He fought against organized crime; against political bossism; against racist immigration laws; and against monopolists and price-fixers.

↳ Some battles he won, others he lost. But he never let defeat embitter or discourage him; instead, he just came back to fight harder.

↳ Estes Kefauver was tireless in seeking out the voters, in every highway and byway of America. But he also gave generously of his time and energy to causes where no votes were to be won, because he felt it to be his duty.

↳ That is the mark of a statesman -- and Estes Kefauver was a statesman of real vision and commanding intellect as well as a master politician, and a master of the common touch.

↳ I think of his work as ^a young Congressman on Congressional reorganization and the achievement of more effective and productive relations between the executive and legislative branches of our federal government.

↳ I think of his work as a Senator for closer cooperation among the free nations of the Atlantic -- his staunch and active support of NATO, and his tireless efforts to endow it with economic, social and political as well as military significance.

↳ He was capable of high and lonely courage.

He took orders from no one but his conscience.

∟ He was gentle, as only the strong can be gentle,
He was infinitely patient and persistent in pressing for
those things he deemed right, and immovably stubborn
in resisting those he deemed wrong. ∟ Yet, at all times
-- even in the heat of battle -- he was courteous, kind,
considerate and generous.

∟ He was a giant of a man -- and like the giant of
Greek mythology, he drew fresh strength from each contact
with his native earth, the good earth of Tennessee.

∟ It is fitting that he rests there eternally -- and
it is fitting that we, his friends and colleagues, have
gathered here to bear witness that America -- and the
American people -- are better for the life he lived and
the example of selfless service he set.

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TO BE DELIVERED FOLLOWING YOUR REGULAR REMARKS

And now it is my privilege and pleasure to make an important announcement on behalf of the Estes Kefauver Memorial Foundation. For this purpose, I would appreciate it very much if Mr. Edward J. Meeman, editor emeritus of the Memphis Press ~~Scimitar~~ ^{Scimitar}, would join me at the microphone.

↳ There was a long history of relationship between Ed Meeman and Estes Kefauver.

They fought many a battle together -- battles I already have alluded to: for the independence of TVA and the proving of the public power concept; for equal rights for all men at a time when such a fight wasn't popular or easy; for the right of dissent, ~~even during the McCarthy era~~, when such rights weren't easily secured; for, what Estes used to call, "the little people."

Therefore, I think it is most appropriate that today his old friend and collaborator -- Ed Meeman -- is here to announce an endowment to the Estes Kefauver Memorial Foundation to carry on the purposes for which the two jointly strived.

Mr. Meeman is giving the foundation 50,000 dollars to endow an award to be given triennially to the person who has done the most during the past three years to establish a union of the free nations -- the "Union of the Free Award."

~~Some day there will be such a union~~ -- and Estes would have hoped that the United States would be the nation to show the way ^{for the building of a strong} I am honored to be associated in this occasion.

Atlantic Community

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