

SENATOR FULBRIGHT COMMEMORATIVE EVENT
(JAPAN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, FEB. 23, 1995)
(As Prepared for Delivery)

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICANS HERE TODAY, I WISH TO THANK THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING TODAY'S EVENT TO HONOR ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE AMERICANS OF OUR TIME.

SINCE SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S DEATH, I HAVE BEEN AMAZED AT THE INCREDIBLE OUTPOURING OF RESPECT AND AFFECTION FOR HIM EXPRESSED BY JAPANESE LEADERS AND COMMENTATORS. IT'S BEEN THE SAME AROUND THE WORLD. IF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAD JUST DIED THIS RESPONSE MIGHT BE EXPECTED, BUT WHAT IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE ABOUT ALL OF THIS IS THAT A U.S. SENATOR, LONG OUT OF PUBLIC OFFICE, FROM ONE OF OUR SMALLEST STATES, HAS MADE SUCH A DEEP IMPACT NOT ONLY ON HIS OWN NATION BUT ON THE WORLD.

WHAT EXPLAINS THIS?

SENATOR FULBRIGHT WAS THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN HE FIRST WON A SEAT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE YEAR WAS 1943, AND AMERICA, LIKE MUCH OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, WAS IN THE MIDST OF FIGHTING THE CRUELEST OF WARS. THE END WAS HARDLY IN SIGHT.

AND YET, RIGHT AT THIS TIME, WHILE WE WERE STILL IN THE THICK OF WAR, HE WAS ALREADY INTENT ON BUILDING THE PEACE. THE "FULBRIGHT RESOLUTION" HE INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS IN 1943 CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY TO MAINTAIN WORLD PEACE AND PROVED TO BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

FULBRIGHT SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 15 YEARS--LONGER THAN ANY SENATOR IN OUR HISTORY. WHILE MOST AMERICAN LEADERS RAN FROM THE FIGHT, HE FOUGHT SENATOR MCCARTHY'S EFFORTS TO FORCE AMERICA INTO A DARK AGE OF IGNORANCE AND HATRED. FROM THE BEGINNING, HE SPOKE OUT AGAINST U.S. POLICY IN VIETNAM EVEN AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP OF A PRESIDENT OF HIS OWN PARTY.

DESPITE ALL OF THIS, I BELIEVE WE WILL ALL AGREE THAT THE SENATOR WILL BE REMEMBERED ABOVE ALL FOR ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLY VISIONARY AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF OUR TIME --THE "FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM."

THIS PROGRAM, TOO, WAS CONCEIVED BY THE SENATOR WHILE THE WAR STILL RAGED. THE YEAR WAS 1944 AND MANY AMERICANS WERE FLIRTING WITH ISOLATIONISM BORNE OUT OF A DISGUST WITH WAR. BUT WHILE OTHERS SOUGHT TO TURN AWAY FROM THE WORLD, SENATOR FULBRIGHT SAW THE NEED FOR AMERICA TO INVOLVE ITSELF MORE DEEPLY THAN EVER BEFORE IN REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD AND BY EXPANDING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

HE WAS A RHODES SCHOLAR AND HAD BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS. HE WAS ALSO A CHRISTIAN WHICH IMPORTUNES US TO TURN SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES. OUT OF THESE RICH INTELLECTUAL AND RELIGIOUS ROOTS, THE SENATOR CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF CHANNELING FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS. HE CALLED THIS "A MODEST PROGRAM WITH AN IMMODEST AIM". HE ONCE SAID THAT "EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE CAN TURN NATIONS INTO PEOPLE, CONTRIBUTING AS NO OTHER FORM OF COMMUNICATION CAN TO THE HUMANIZING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS."

SINCE THEN, NEARLY 250,000 SCHOLARS HAVE RECEIVED FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS, MORE THAN HALF OF THESE BEING FOREIGN STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS GOING TO THE U.S. A FEW YEARS AGO, HE OBSERVED THAT THE TOTAL COST OF HIS PROGRAM THROUGH ALL OF THESE YEARS WAS LESS THAN HALF THE COST OF A SINGLE TRIDENT SUBMARINE.

THE IMPACT OF THIS EFFORT IN JAPAN IS KNOWN BY EVERYONE HERE. A GENERATION OF AMERICA'S BEST JAPANESE SCHOLARS GOT THEIR START AS FULBRIGHTERS: CAROL GLUCK OF COLUMBIA, DICK SAMUELS OF MIT, KEN PYLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, HERB PASSIN AND OTHERS COME TO MIND. AND MANY OF THESE SMOOTH AND WELL DRESSED AMERICANS NOW ON THE TOKYO SCENE TODAY-- LIKE GLENN FUKUSHIMA AT AT&T AND BOB FELDMAN AT SOLOMON BROTHERS--FIRST CAME HERE IN RAGS AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS. HUNDREDS OF WELL KNOWN AMERICAN LEADERS LIKE PAT MOYNIHAN AND THE ECONOMIST MILTON FRIEDMAN HAVE WELL REPAYED THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

OVER 5,000 JAPANESE HAVE BEEN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS. MANY OF YOU WITH US TODAY, LIKE MR. GYOTEN, WERE AMONG THEM. SOME, LIKE MR. AKASHI AT THE U.N, HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT WORLD FIGURES . THE FULBRIGHT LEGACY IN JAPAN IS SIMPLY ASTOUNDING. OTHERS WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT THAT TODAY, AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU WHO ARE NOT SPEAKING TODAY ARE REMEMBERING WHAT IT MEANT TO YOU.

PRIME MINISTER MURAYAMA'S FIRST STOP IN HIS WASHINGTON TRIP WAS A PERSONAL VISIT TO SEE SENATOR FULBRIGHT. IT WAS ALSO SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE. YOUR PRIME MINISTER, I BELIEVE, SPOKE FOR ALL OF JAPAN WHEN HE SAID TO HIM: "YOUR NAME IS A SYMBOL OF THE GOOD WILL AND GENEROSITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

LET ME CLOSE WITH A PERSONAL WORD. I SERVED WITH SENATOR FULBRIGHT FOR OVER A DECADE. HE WAS A FRIEND OF MINE. HE WAS ALSO A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT. ALTHOUGH FROM A SMALL, POOR, RURAL STATE, HE SHOWED VISION, UNDERSTANDING, BRILLIANCE AND COURAGE. THE GREAT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIAN, EDMUND BURKE, ONCE SAID THAT A LEGISLATOR OWED HIS CONSTITUENTS MORE THAN HIS DILIGENCE, HE ALSO OWED THEM THE PRODUCT OF HIS BEST JUDGEMENT. BURKE WOULD HAVE LIKED SENATOR FULBRIGHT. HE HAS CHANGED THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER, BUILT THE PEACE, EDUCATED WORLD LEADERS, REMINDED US OF OUR COMMON HUMANITY, AND UNDERScoreD THE POWER OF LEARNING.

WE NEED NOT MOURN SENATOR FULBRIGHT; HE LEAD A VERY LONG AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE. HE LIVED TO SEE HIS EFFORTS SUCCEED. HE EVEN SAW ONE OF HIS YOUNG STAFFERS BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT, OH, THAT OUR TROUBLED WORLD COULD HAVE MANY MORE SENATOR FULBRIGHTS.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT REPRESENTED MY COUNTRY AT ITS BEST. WE WILL MISS HIM.



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