

Senator Dave Durenberger
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

2/17/85

Dear Senator,

For your speech quoted today by David Broder, my respect and congratulations! The country and the Republican Party very much need the vision, understanding and compassion you reflect.

It may have been in the unreported part of your speech but I never see it in the papers or on TV - the programs the administration seeks to cut or eliminate are those that also do prime the economic pump.

The poor spend every cent they get and still do not have enough for a decent life. Most of us on Social Security also spend every cent we get, some then not living decently and most of the rest requiring it for a semblance of decent living - earned in a lifetime of labor from which, in one way or another the nation benefitted.

Some administration proposals can be ruinous far into the future. Certainly there will be fewer with college educations in a world in which they are more essential than ever. We'll have fewer scientists, fewer professionals, save as an elitist class, those born to wealthy parents.

From my contact with them, true conservatives also welcome your forward-looking words and your recognition of the needs of the needy. My most conservative friend, a career Navy man with whom I share daily therapy, has been saying pretty much the same thing since the beginning of the recent political campaign and his wife, a bank vice president, shares those views. We walk, rest, walk again and talk, and this former post commander insists that our military expenditures are bloated, misdirected and in many instances against the national interest.

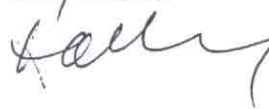
I'll be 72 in seven weeks and this past election, with a single FDR exception, is the first time I've not, as a Democrat, voted for some Republicans. This is because of what has happened to your party's leadership and direction and the growing control of these who cannot cope with or comprehend the modern world, those who are merely against and not for the constructive.

Do not be misled by the number of times I've written you. I have written to only one other Senator (infrequently) in years, Senator Mathias, who I've known and respected and voted for since his first campaign for the House. You and he represent the tradition of your party and I hope you will continue to be heard as you have been and that your ranks increase.

This sanity is so urgently necessary in a world and country in which predominating policies grow less rational daily.

Thanks, congratulations and

best wishes,



Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd
Frederick, MD 2170.

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