2-22-1957

Remarks on presenting the George Washington Award to Karl E. Mundt

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Remarks on presenting the George Washington Award to Karl E. Mundt" (1957). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 1439.
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REMARKS BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON PRESENTING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON AWARD TO SENATOR KARL E. MUNDT ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN GOOD GOVERNMENT SOCIETY AT THE HOTEL STATLER IN WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 22, 1957.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Any award made in the name of the first President of this great country should be made to a recipient who is of the same high character and integrity, and who has the same courageous statesmanship which set George Washington apart from others in the fight for representative government.

I congratulate the Trustees of the American Good Government Society on selecting the man named on the scroll which I have the honor of presenting tonight. He measures up to the standards set in the early days of this Nation by the Father of Our Country.

In every way he has demonstrated that he possesses the ability, the integrity, the penetrating interest and understanding of public affairs, and the unbounded capacity for work, which are the essentials of an outstanding representative of the people of this country.

He had been successful in several fields of endeavor before entering public life. He is a compelling speaker whose words attract the attention of citizens all over this nation. They recognize him for the patriotic public servant that he is.

After his experience as a member of the Un-American Activities Committee in the House of Representatives, he was instrumental in the enactment of legislation in 1950 to establish the Subversive Activities Control Board. Then, as now, many people
did not see the necessity for such an organization, but all of us should be grateful to this man that he had the courage and vision to sponsor this legislation.

Another achievement I want to mention is the success he has had in developing a national consciousness of the desirability for reformation of the Electoral College system. Here again he has exhibited courage as well as a deep concept of how practical measures should be applied to the functioning of government so as to more truly reflect the will of the people.

Many times this man has shown his adherence to the principles of constitutional government by his advocacy of the rights of the States as delineated in the Constitution.

I am proud to call him my personal friend and I am happy to present this scroll to the senior United States Senator from South Dakota, the Honorable Karl E. Mundt.

The inscription on the scroll reads as follows:

KARL E. MUNDT

Farmer, Educator, Statesman, Master of Forensic Arts, has served the People of South Dakota and the Nation for eighteen years in the Congress of the United States -- the last eight in the United States Senate.

Among his notable Achievements are the provisions of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which established the Subversive Activities Control Board to halt Communist subversion; and the creation by Congress of the Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Commission, to re-emphasize Hamilton's enduring contributions to the Cause of personal Liberty and national Independence --
Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances in State and Nation, Honor and Integrity in Government, and Immortality of the Public Credit.

Senator Mundt has raised the Twin Standards of Political Realignment in Congress and Reform of the Electoral College, to the end that the Separate Powers of the President and Congress shall rest on the same Principles of Representation, thus serving his creed: "A Fair Chance for a Free People."