

Introduction of Senator Herman E. Talmadge

at

Dedication Ceremony

Birthplace of

Thomas E. Watson

on site of

Jeffersonian Publishing Company Plant

Hickory Hill

Thomson, Georgia

September 5, 1976

by

Monroe Kimbrel

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Born of a friendship spanning more than 40 years since our days at the University of Georgia, we share pride and gratitude with millions of Georgians as our distinguished guest continues to add prestige, dignity, and vision to the service of his country.

Most of you here today know and are known by our friend, many on a first name basis. Even so, some mention of his service seems appropriate.

Graduated with a Law degree, he started practice with his father, the late Governor Eugene Talmadge.

Eight months before Pearl Harbor, he left this practice to enlist in the Navy, where he saw 32 months of combat duty in the Southwest Pacific, including the Battle of Okinawa and being present in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender.

In September 1948, he was elected Governor of Georgia. Re-elected in 1950, he served until January 1955. His administration was characterized by unprecedented accomplishments, particularly in education, health and welfare.

He has served --

- . . . as national president of the University of Georgia  
Alumni Society,
- . . . as chairman of the Richard B. Russell Foundation,
- . . . as co-founder of the highly successful Joint Tech-  
Georgia Development Fund,

. . . as a member of the Baptist Church and numerous honorary, civic, business, and professional organizations.

Married to Betty Shingler of Ashburn, they had two sons--Gene and the late Robert Shingler.

Now in his 20th year as a member of the United States Senate, he has earned recognition as a hard-working advocate of responsible government, as an outspoken opponent of deficit spending, as a convincing spokesman for Constitutional government. Acknowledged as one of the nation's most respected authorities on fiscal policies and agricultural programs.

In the 94th Congress, he assumed positions of increased responsibility:

- . . . Chairman of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee
- . . . Second ranking on Finance Committee
- . . . Second on Veterans Affairs Committee
- . . . as a member of the influential, nine-member

Democratic Policy Committee. In May 1973, he was appointed to the seven-member Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (better known as the Watergate Committee).

Demands as a public speaker are tremendous, not only in Georgia but throughout the nation. He appears frequently on national television programs, such as Issues and Answers, Meet the Press, and Face the Nation. Despite these heavy demands, he has maintained an average Senate voting attendance record of 95 percent.

By numerous personal visits, from an avalanche of correspondence and a barrage of telephone conversations with average Georgians all across the state, our guest is credited with possessing a more reliable reading of the concerns of the people of Georgia than any of the numerous polls and of any other single individual.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is fitting that we welcome on this occasion--

A fiscal conservative,

An effective and responsive public servant,

A truly great American --

The senior United States Senator from the State of Georgia, the  
Honorable Herman E. Talmadge.