

TOAST IN HONOR OF KING OLAV OF NORWAY

APRIL 26, 1968

As a son of Norway, it is a special pleasure for me to welcome King Olav to the United States.

For all those of us whose families once left that beautiful land to seek a new life in America, the visit of the King of Norway is a memorable event.

ⓧ Sen + Mrs Warren
Magnuson

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Some of the earliest Americans came from Norway. And in my part of the United States their coming is still celebrated on Leif Ericson Day.

I shall not venture, in this election year, to discuss who discovered America. I doubt if any of the claimants knew what they had started.

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But I would like to point out that reliable historians say that Norwegian Vikings settled in Ireland as early as the end of the 8th century. A number of confrontations took place -- and I am happy to say that there is solid precedent for victory by a son of Norway over the Irish.

There are many here in our country who recall the visit of Your Majesty with your father, King Haakon the Seventh, when he assumed the Norwegian throne in 1905.

We recall the heroic action of Your Majesty and your father in strengthening the will of a brave people to resist a foreign tyranny.

We recall the triumphant return to Norway of King Haakon and Your Majesty in the Spring of 1945, when the lights of freedom and liberation went on again all over Western Europe.

We are aware, too, of Norway's invaluable contribution to the defense of Europe through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to making good the peace-keeping commitments of the United Nations.

And at a time when we are asking more than ever before of our own democracy, we take great confidence from Norway's ability to combine political liberty and economic progress with unparalleled social and economic justice.

I might add that Norwegian prowess in sport, whether on Long Island Sound, or on the slopes of Grenoble, is something Americans can only admire.

You leave tomorrow on an extensive tour of the United States. Everywhere you go, you will encounter citizens of Norwegian background, and many, many more who have a deep admiration and affection for your country. You will find friends.

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