

FRU ANNE-MARIE WILLOCHS LUNSJTALE FOR FRU VISEPRESIDENT  
BUSCH, "RØYLEN", 30. JUNI 1983

Mrs. Bush, honoured visitors, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me, and indeed a pleasure,  
to host this luncheon in honour of you, Mrs. Bush.

Before continuing, I would like to express my  
sincere thanks for the most generous and friendly welcome  
which was accorded to my husband and myself, when we had

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the privilege to visit the United States and your capital  
city in February of this year. It is indeed very plea-  
sant that the friendship and the contacts then established  
can be confirmed, continued and developed through your  
present stay in Norway.

Yesterday we went to the Viking museum, and you  
could see how our ancestors built those ships in which

3.  
they sailed when they discovered North America - almost a thousand years ago. As you may have seen already, there is a dramatic painting of that event exhibited in the main hall of this building.

For unknown reasons the Viking settlements in America were abandoned. But in more recent times a considerable proportion of all Norwegians settled in the United States.

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All the emigrants left Norway by ships, of course, and most of them sailed past this point and down the fiord. I hope, therefore, that you will agree that it is quite fitting to arrange this luncheon in our Maritime Museum.

Through the emigration there was built a bridge between our two countries, a bridge which can never be destroyed. We Norwegians are happy to know that on the

other side of the Atlantic Ocean we have friends and relatives. These factors add to the strength of our indispensable friendship, cemented through war years, and further developed through our common defence of peace and freedom in the Atlantic alliance.

I am most happy, Mrs. Bush, to see you here as our guest, and to have this opportunity to renew our personal friendship and contacts. We sincerely hope that you will be enjoying your visit and that we will have the pleasure to welcome you in Norway also on further visits.

Finally, I would like you all to join me in a toast to Mrs. Barbara Bush and to the friendship with the people of the United States.