



UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE



1962-2012
50TH ANNIVERSARY





FOR FIFTY YEARS, A QUIET COVENANT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS, A COVENANT CREATED TO NURTURE A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN A COMPETITIVELY SELECTED GROUP OF THE BRIGHTEST YOUNG STUDENTS IN THE NATION.



President John F. Kennedy meets with the student delegates at the White House during the inaugural United States Senate Youth Program in January, 1963.

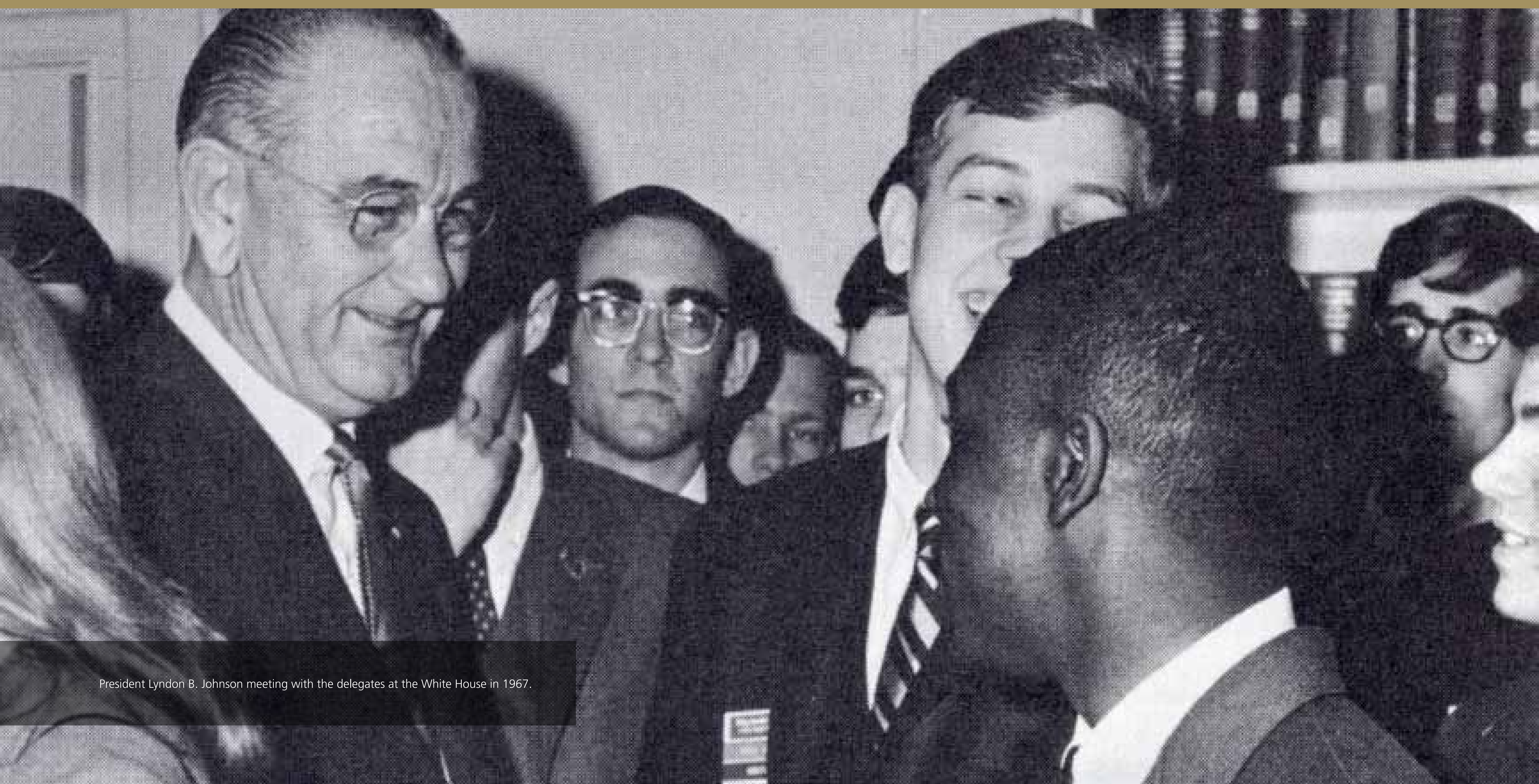




USSYP student delegates to the first program Washington Week in 1963.



THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP) was originally envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked closely to develop the idea with the visionary and bipartisan Senate Leadership of the day – Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois, Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Senator Tom Kuchel of California. The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, “to increase young Americans’ understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world.”



President Lyndon B. Johnson meeting with the delegates at the White House in 1967.

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



“It should be your care, therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children and exalt their courage; to accelerate and animate their industry and activity; to excite in them an habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty and virtue.”

– JOHN ADAMS



Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey with student delegates in 1966. As Assistant Majority Leader in 1962 Senator Humphrey played a key role in the founding of the U.S. Senate Youth Program including recommending the designation of the state departments of education nationwide as the selectors of the students. He spoke to the group every year until his health failed in the late 1970's.





President Gerald R. Ford meets with USSYP delegates in the White House in 1975



Every year since that time the program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students – two from every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity – to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. Highly competitive and merit based, the selection process is managed by each state's department of education with the Chief State School Officer ultimately responsible for the selection of delegates and alternates. The two students selected to serve as delegates to Washington Week each also receive a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in history and political science.



USSYP alumnus Karl Rove smiles after meeting President Richard Nixon in the White House in 1969.

“There is a debt of service due from every man to his country, proportioned to the bounties which nature and fortune have measured to him.”

– THOMAS JEFFERSON



Senator Ted Kennedy meets with the Massachusetts students in his office in 1971





President Jimmy Carter addresses the delegates in 1977



Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall explaining the intricacies of the Judicial Branch to the USSYP class of 1977.

Each year the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the program; two Senators, one from each party, serve as acting Co-Chairs and an eight-member bipartisan Senate panel rounds out the annual Senate Advisory Committee. In addition, seventeen military officers from all service branches are competitively selected to serve as mentors to the student delegates throughout the week, representing one of the longest standing partnerships between a national youth program and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.



Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole meets with the Kansas delegates in 1975.



“And so, my fellow Americans:
ask not what your country can do for you
— ask what you can do for your country.”

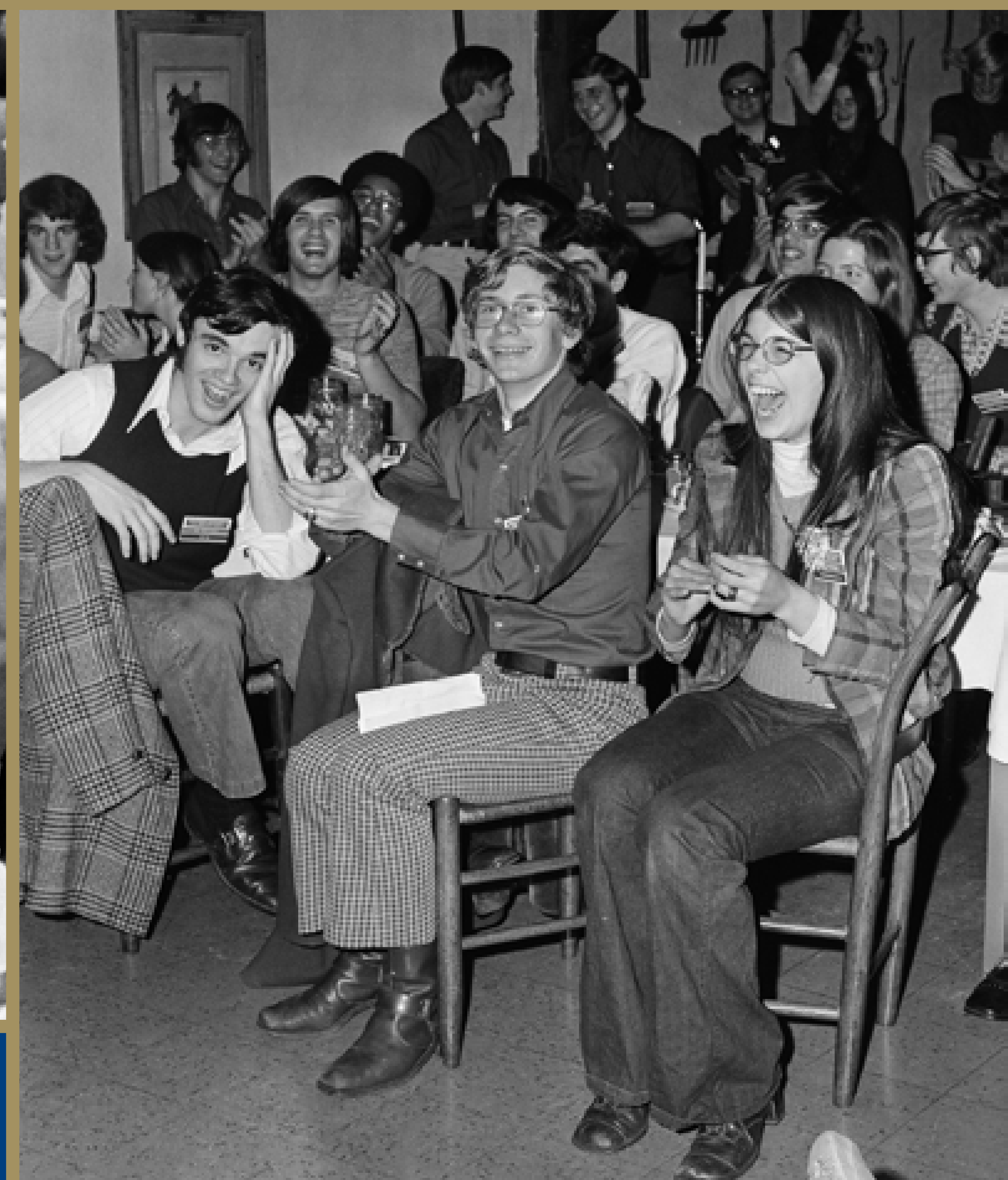
— JOHN F. KENNEDY



Henry Kissinger, serving as National Security Advisor in 1974, addresses the United States Senate Youth Program. Senior officials from the Department of State and other executive agencies engage the students in in-depth discussions of domestic and foreign policy allowing extended time for spirited Q and A sessions.



Senator John Glenn lunches with the Ohio delegates in 1977

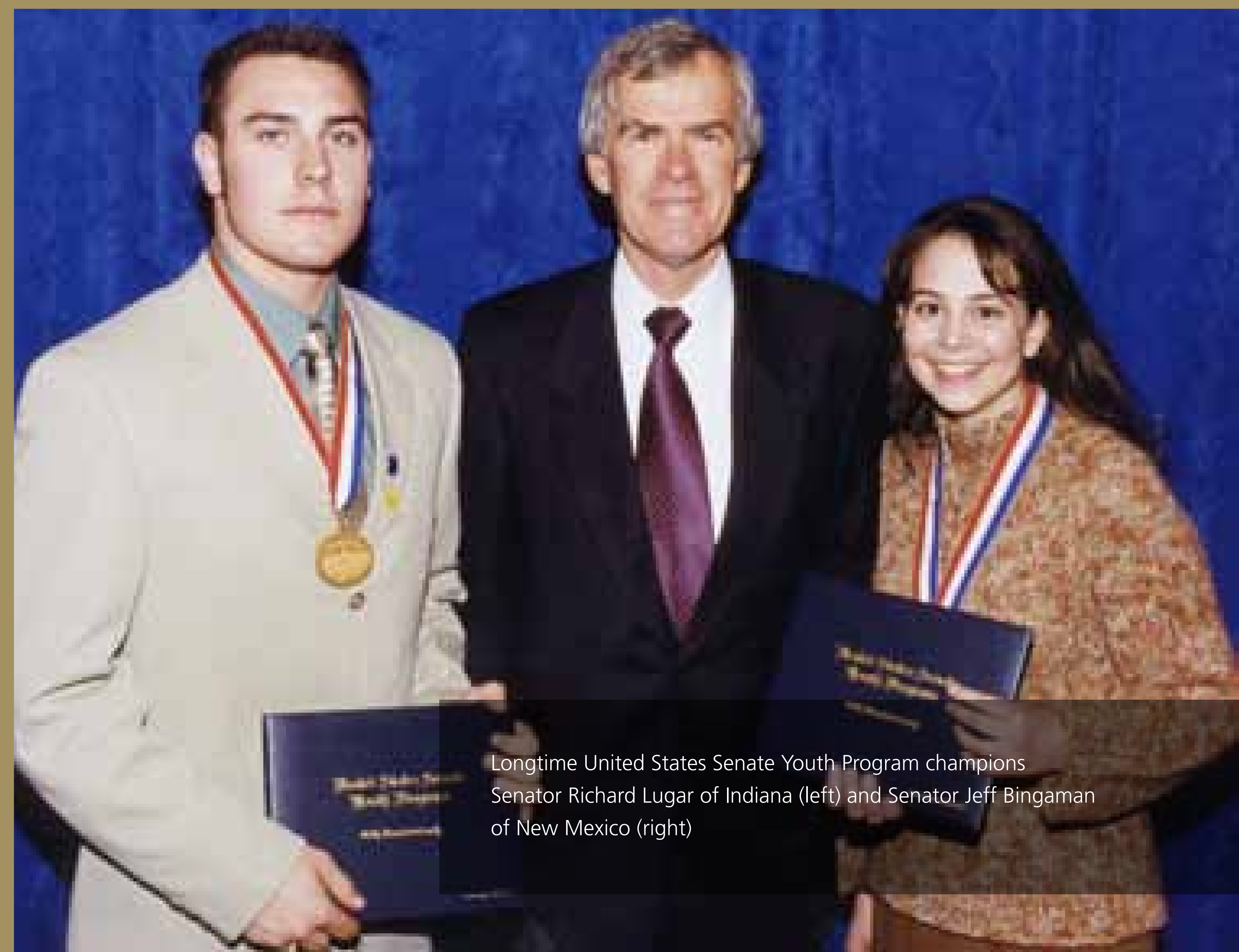




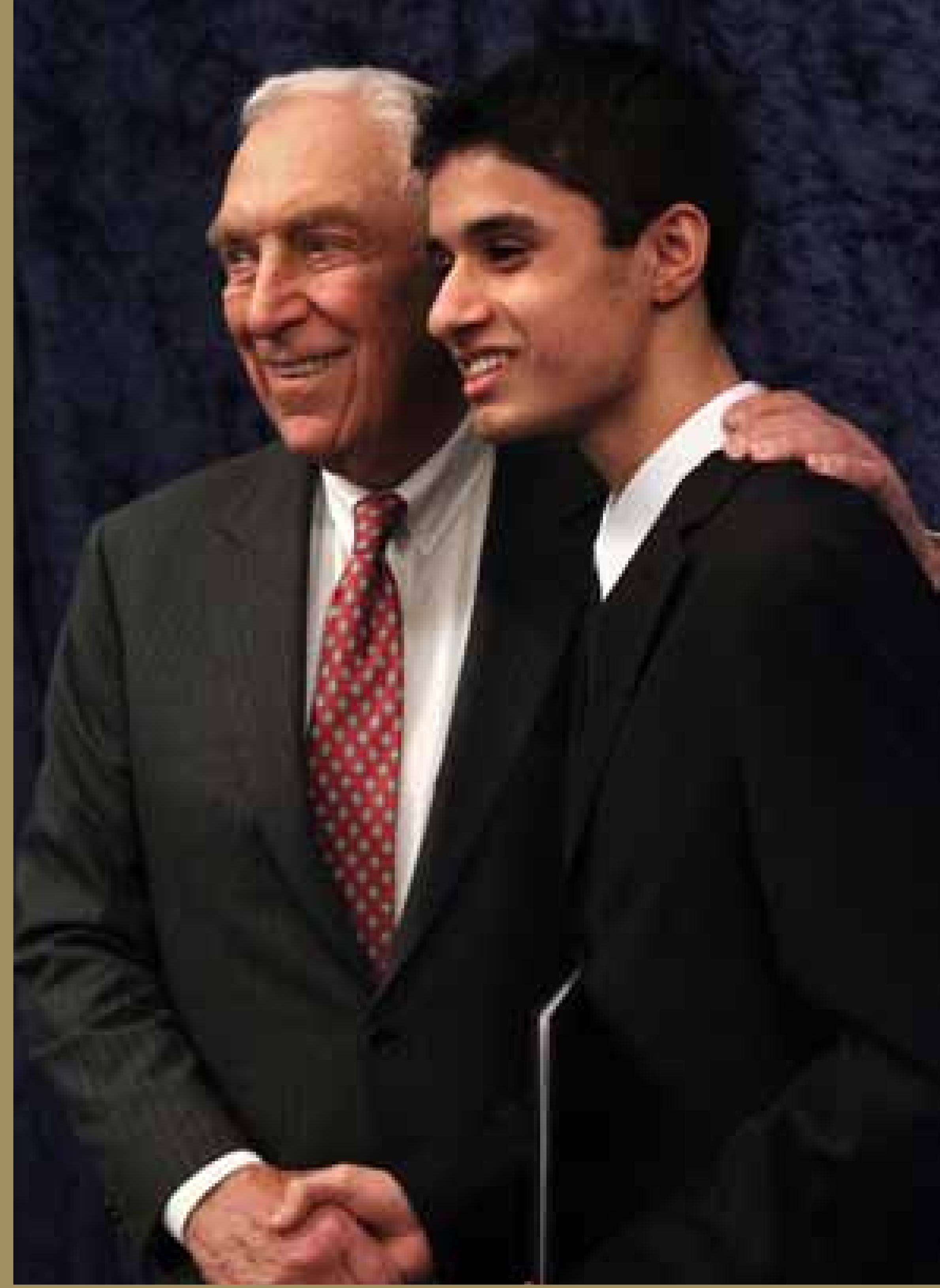
President Ronald Reagan with the 1981 U.S. Senate Youth delegates



During Washington Week the students will attend briefings and meetings with several Senators, the President of the United States, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Cabinet Secretaries, and an Ambassador to the United States, other federal agency leaders and senior members of the national media. Each speaking event includes a substantial question and answer session allowing the students direct and personal interaction with the high-level leadership. This in-depth exposure is precisely what fuels and sustains the students' commitment to making a difference in their country, communities and schools.



Longtime United States Senate Youth Program champions Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana (left) and Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico (right)



The Annual United States Senate Youth Program Reception gives all Senators an opportunity to meet the outstanding student delegates from their states and to sign their USSYP college scholarship certificates. Taking place each Wednesday of Washington Week, more than 70 Senators make the time to stop by the Senate Reception each year.





Every year since The United States Senate Youth Program's inception in 1962 at least seventeen military officers, representing each of the military services and the Coast Guard, are competitively selected to serve as mentors for the students during Washington Week. The officers are chosen by Department of Defense staff, representing one of the longest standing partnerships between the Department of Defense and a national youth program.



Now more than 5,000 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni are: Senator Susan Collins, the first delegate to be elected U.S. Senator; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first delegate to be elected governor; Congressman Cory Gardner, the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; and former Presidential Advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional notables include former Lt. Governor of Idaho David LeRoy, former President of the Progressive Policy Institute Robert Shapiro, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.





USSYP delegate of New Jersey Christopher Christie (left) proudly holds his USSYP scholarship signed by Senator Bill Bradley, 1980.



“In the end, it is the institution of the Senate. It is the Senate itself as one of the foundations of the Constitution. It is the Senate as one of the rocks of the Republic.”

– SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA, THE SENATE’S LONGEST SERVING SENATE MAJORITY LEADER 1961 – 1977





USSYP delegates from Oklahoma meet with Speaker of the House Carl Albert in 1971. Far right is Robert H. Henry who was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994 as Judge of the Tenth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge from 2008 – 2010.



The Hearst Foundations have fully funded The United States Senate Youth Program since its inception in 1962, including transportation, accommodations, meals and individual undergraduate college scholarships for each student. As stipulated in S. Res. 324, no government funds are utilized.



Senator Susan Collins of Maine (USSYP – 1971) and Congressman Cory Gardner of Colorado (USSYP – 1993) are the first two student delegates to be elected U.S. Senator and U.S. Congressman, respectively. Here they address the class of 2011 students in a surprise joint appearance.



