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The sum of all our efforts, all our endeavors will yield results in the same fashion as a snowstorm in March; the experts will vehemently deny the change until the snow has reached their nose. Much was discussed throughout the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) about our political views as young people, our potential as a generation — the youth will decide the fate of our nation; which direction the youth wish for the country to move in will indeed determine which direction it will drift towards in the long run. I find that change is still coming. We have only seen the very beginning.

I found myself connecting with my fellow delegates in the most important way possible: in sharing our ideals, hopes, and dreams. My favorite discussions were like the ones with our local philosopher-delegate about why he believes a Francoist regime with an official religion (he didn't care which religion) would be the best form of government or a member of the LGBTQ community who thinks states should still decide the legality of same-sex marriages. Ultimately, they each connected to the same theme: our visions as young people for how we can act to inspire not only America, but also the *world* to work towards our goals.

Some of these visions were drastic (an agrarian republic of independent yeomen), others more moderate (a United States where a fine balance was struck between accepting asylum-seekers legally while humanely securing our borders), and some elements of the most basic common sense (a United States where citizens can't buy guns without a background check, no matter who you are). Whether right-leaning or left-leaning — I met plenty of delegates from both camps in Washington, D.C. — their visions motivate other young people to an extent that an older person could scarcely emulate. Ultimately, this is what Washington Week and the USSYP were truly all about.

Throughout the week we met with speakers who encouraged us to pursue our unique visions. Interestingly, each speaker had their own particular spin on this encouragement. Chief Justice Roberts was milder — as one might expect, focusing on his experiences as the chief justice of the Supreme Court and ultimately how his time on the bench has been dictated by his morals and values, a concept the delegates felt the importance of in their leadership positions back at their schools and even as a part of USSYP. Jack Warren was one of the most interesting speakers; he fended off the idea that the Revolution wasn't an inherent positive in our history, drawing parallels between the ideals of the Revolution and activism throughout our history — both to the same end. Robert Henry spoke to how change can be pursued through the judiciary branch, not just the sexier legislative and executive branches. However, even in the pursuit of change, morals and integrity must always receive the foremost attention and emphasis. Julie Adams and Elizabeth MacDonough discussed how any pursuits of change must have an order, a structure for *all* to follow. Susan Gordon addressed national security and how, before making change, we first have to be safe in order to ensure the sanctity of any dialogue we have. David Norquist and Paul Selva discussed how while the military may not be a vehicle of change, it protects any changes we can achieve.

USSYP was an eye-opening week. It didn't change what I want to do in my life but instead has added a new magnitude, a new scale of my desired achievements. I have further realized exactly how I want to make change in the world. Importantly, I have discovered how I can change the world *now*, not having to wait for age to elevate me to the adult table. So, in a way, USSYP has given me a new responsibility: to make good on the promises I have made to myself and the world in the pursuit of an improved world. We must leave the world better than how we entered it. *That* is the purpose of government; to help everyone better themselves and the world.