

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SENATOR DOLE'S REPUBLICAN PLATFORM COMMENTS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE'S (R-KANSAS) COMMENTS AT THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM DISCUSSION HELD BY SENATOR LOWELL WEICKER (R-CONNECTICUT) ON JULY 30, 1984:

"THE ECONOMY: BUILDING ON A STRONG PLATFORM"

"THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN ALL AMERICANS. WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES OR DOES NOT DO WITH RESPECT TO THE ECONOMY OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL HELP DETERMINE WHETHER THE RECOVERY WE ARE NOW ENJOYING HAS LASTING BENEFITS FOR OUR CITIZENS, OUR COUNTRY, AND THE WORLD ECONOMY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW WHAT WE AS REPUBLICANS PROPOSE TO PRESERVE AND BUILD ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

PAST SUCCESS

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REVERSAL OF OUR ECONOMIC FORTUNES IS A HISTORICAL, RECORD-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT. IN 1980 WE CHALLENGED THE VOTERS TO ACCEPT A NEW APPROACH TO BREAKING OUT OF THE STAGFLATION DEADLOCK. THEY ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE AND THE BET HAS PAID OFF HANDSOMELY. FROM RISING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1980 WE HAVE MOVED TO DECLINING INFLATION AND RISING EMPLOYMENT IN 1984. WE ARE RAPIDLY REVERSING THE TREND TOWARD DISINVESTMENT IN THE U.S., THE DOLLAR IS STRONG, AND THE WORLD MARVELS AT OUR ABILITY TO RISE FROM THE DEPTHS OF RECESSION AND CREATE NEW JOBS AT RECORD RATES.

CHALLENGE AHEAD

BUT WE FACE A NEW CHALLENGE THIS YEAR, AND WE MUST OFFER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WE WANT A NATION THAT OFFERS MORE AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK, TO CREATE, TO RAISE A FAMILY, TO LEARN, AND TO GROW. WE WANT THOSE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE AVAILABLE EQUALLY TO ALL AMERICANS, TO ALL RACES, RELIGIONS, AND WALKS OF LIFE, TO MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE. AND WE EXPECT SUCH OPPORTUNITIES TO FLOURISH BEST WHEN GOVERNMENT INTERFERES LEAST, FOSTERING ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GIVING FULL REIGN TO THE CREATIVE ENERGIES OF ALL AMERICANS .

THEREFORE OUR FIRST AND FOREMOST OBLIGATION IS TO SUSTAIN OUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS BY ACTING SWIFTLY TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL RED INK THAT THREATENS OUR FUTURE. THERE IS REALLY NO DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THAT: THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW TO GO ABOUT IT--AND WHY SHOULD VOTERS TRUST REPUBLICANS TO DO THE JOB RATHER THAN OUR "NEWLY REALISTIC" DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES.

RESTRAINT ON SPENDING GROWTH

I BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. WE HAVE TO TACKLE EVERY ASPECT OF THE BUDGET IF WE WANT TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT. THERE ARE COUNTLESS OPTIONS TO CONSIDER. FOR INSTANCE, A FREEZE ON FEDERAL SPENDING FOR

ONE YEAR, ALLOWING FOR 5 PERCENT REAL GROWTH IN DEFENSE, COULD SAVE ABOUT \$150 BILLION OVER THREE YEARS. AND THAT IS JUST ONE OPTION. SPENDING MUST REMAIN OUR FIRST LINE OF ATTACK. WHILE REVENUES AT ABOUT 19 PERCENT OF GNP ARE IN LINE WITH RECENT HISTORY, SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF GNP IS NOT: IT REMAINS AT 24-25 PERCENT, MUCH TOO HIGH FOR PEACETIME.

THIS JOB CAN BE DONE. WALTER MONDALE CLAIMS TO HAVE DISCOVERED A "NEW REALISM", BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE OLD REALISM--COMMON SENSE--FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALONE, WE HAVE CUT ABOUT \$96.3 BILLION FROM SPENDING PROGRAMS IN OUR JURISDICTION OVER THE PERIOD 1982 TO 1986. THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANY PROGRAM OR POLICY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SO SACROSANCT THAT IT IS FREE FROM SCRUTINY.

TAX FAIRNESS

TO THE EXTENT WE FALL SHORT ON THE SPENDING SIDE, WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT REVENUES. BUT WE WILL DO SO IN A FAIR, IMAGINATIVE, AND CREATIVE WAY. WALTER MONDALE WANTS TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO THE DAYS WHEN BRACKET CREEP RAISED REVENUES BY SLEIGHT-OF-HAND. THAT VIOLATES FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME TAXPAYERS, AND WE WILL NOT RENEGE ON TAX INDEXING, OUR NUMBER ONE TAX REFORM. NOR WILL WE FALL BACK ON SURCHARGES AND RATE INCREASES THAT PENALIZE WORK EFFORT AND CREATE PRESSURE FOR NEW LOOPHOLES.

IF WE NEED NEW REVENUES, WE WILL GIVE THE TAX LAWS A FRESH LOOK: REFORMING, SIMPLIFYING WHERE WE CAN, CUTTING OUT OBSOLETE INCENTIVES AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OVERHAUL THE ENTIRE TAX CODE NEXT YEAR--THAT IS A HUGE UNDERTAKING--WE REPUBLICANS SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO ENTERTAINING ONLY THOSE TAX CHANGES THAT MAKE THE SYSTEM MORE EFFICIENT, MORE FAIR, AND MORE EFFECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR TAX REFORM.

LET THE DEMOCRATS MOVE BACKWARD IF THEY WILL. ON TAX POLICY WE HAVE FORGED AHEAD UNDER PRESIDENT REAGAN, AND THAT IS WHAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO TO RESTORE AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN THE BASIC EQUITY OF THE TAX LAWS."