

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR RELEASE AT 8:00PM CDT
Thursday, May 22, 1986

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1986

THANK YOU VERY MUCH KRISTEN, FOR THAT WARM WELCOME. AND MAY I SAY HOW HONORED I FEEL TO JOIN WITH ALL OF YOU THIS EVENING, IN COMMEMORATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN RUSSELL.

AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, I'VE PROBABLY ENDURED MORE FILIBUSTERING THAN ANY MAN ALIVE, AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STAGING ONE OF MY OWN THIS EVENING. ON THE CONTRARY, I'VE TAKEN HEED FROM A MYTHICAL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS I CAME ACROSS NOT LONG AGO. IT GOES LIKE THIS:

"THE MONTH OF MAY APPROACHES
AND SOON ACROSS THE LAND
THE GRADUATION SPEAKERS
WILL TELL US WHERE WE STAND.
WE STAND UPON THE THRESHOLD
OF CAREERS ALL BRIGHTLY LIT
IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS STANDING
WE SIT AND SIT AND SIT."

OF COURSE, THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ME. WHOEVER SAID YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN DIDN'T KNOW RUSSELL, OR THE HOUSE ON MAPLE STREET WHERE A VOLUNTEER FIREMAN TAUGHT HIS SONS TO PLAY BALL, AND HIS WIFE CONDUCTED SEWING CLASSES TO EASE THE HARDSHIP THAT FOLKS EVEN BEFORE 1929 CALLED THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

WHOEVER SAID YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN OLD FRIENDS LIKE BUD SMITH AND PHIL RUPENTHAL, COMPANIONS ON THE SANDLOT AND THE RUNNING TRACK, OR THE AUNT WHO GAVE YOU A QUARTER FOR A PERFECTLY SPELLED PAPER, OR THE SPANISH INSTRUCTOR WHO MADE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AN EXCITING THING. AND THEN THERE WAS DAWSON'S DRUGSTORE, RUSSELL'S OWN VERSION OF GRAND CENTRAL STATION AND A PLACE WHERE ONE COULD OBTAIN ANOTHER KIND OF EDUCATION.

FOR NOW, AS THEN, THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EDUCATION IN THIS WORLD. THERE'S ONE YOU GIVE YOURSELF, AND ANOTHER YOU GET FROM OTHERS. YOU CAN GET AN EDUCATION ON THE FARM OR IN A FACTORY, IN A SCIENCE LAB OR IN A CHURCH PEW. MOST OF ALL, IF YOU'RE FROM RUSSELL, YOU CAN GET AN EDUCATION JUST BY LOOKING AT LIFE AROUND YOU. WHEN I WAS A BOY, I DOUBT WE KNEW THE NAMES OF OUR CONGRESSMEN OR SENATORS.

BUT WE WERE BLESSED TO HAVE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO KNEW AND CARED FOR ONE ANOTHER. WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGH, PEOPLE WERE TOUGHER. WHEN THE WINDS HOWLED AND PART OF THE PRAIRIE ITSELF WAS BLOWN AWAY, I COULD BARELY SEE TO DELIVER THE NEWSPAPERS ON MY PAPER ROUTE. BUT BECAUSE I CAME FROM RUSSELL, BECAUSE I CAME FROM KANSAS, I WAS GRANTED A SPECIAL VISION -- ONE WHICH HAS SEEN ME THROUGH ALL THE YEARS SINCE -- ONE WHICH YOU CAN RELY ON JUST THE SAME.

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