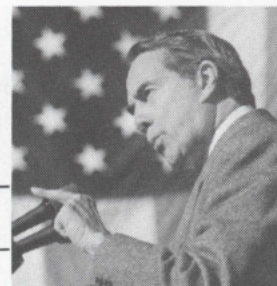


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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RURAL HEALTH CARE HEARING HAYS, KANSAS MAY 27, 1992

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF BEING BORN AND RAISED IN A SMALL TOWN KNOW FIRSTHAND THE JOYS OF RURAL AMERICA. WE WERE BROUGHT UP ON REAL HEARTLAND VALUES -- FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, COMMUNITY, HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE. WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGH, OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE ALWAYS TOUGHER.

TODAY, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH OUR VALUES REMAIN STRONG, RURAL AMERICA IS ONCE AGAIN FACING SOME TOUGH CHALLENGES, CHALLENGES THAT ARE THREATENING OUR WAY OF LIFE AS NEVER BEFORE.

WHETHER IT'S ATTRACTING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES TO MAIN STREET, KEEPING THE FAMILY FARM ALIVE, BOOSTING EDUCATION, BUILDING BETTER HIGHWAYS AND SECURING DECENT TRANSPORTATION, RURAL AMERICA NEEDS NEW IDEAS AND NEW SOLUTIONS.

THERE IS ONE ISSUE I HAVEN'T MENTIONED YET, AND IT'S THE ONE ISSUE THAT MOST FOLKS WOULD PROBABLY PUT RIGHT AT THE TOP OF OUR PRIORITY LIST WHEN IT COMES TO CHALLENGES, AND THAT IS HEALTH CARE.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, RURAL AMERICA DESERVES BETTER THAN THE KIND OF HEALTH CARE IT IS GETTING THESE DAYS.

DESPITE THE GALLANT EFFORTS OF MANY DEDICATED AMERICANS, MANY OF WHOM ARE IN THIS ROOM TODAY, RURAL AMERICA SIMPLY NEEDS HELP, LOTS OF HELP WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH CARE.

THAT'S WHY I AM PLEASED TO HOST THIS IMPORTANT FORUM, BRINGING TOGETHER THE REAL EXPERTS ON THE HEALTH CARE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

YOU'LL NOTE THAT WHILE I HAVE INVITED THESE EXPERTS FROM WASHINGTON, KANSAS CITY AND TOPEKA TO BE HERE TODAY, THEY WILL BE LISTENING INSTEAD OF TALKING. LIKE ME, THEY ARE HERE TO LEARN FROM YOU.

LET'S FACE IT, EVEN IN THE NAME OF REFORM, RURAL AMERICA TOO OFTEN GETS LEFT OUT, WITH HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS TAILORED FOR NEW YORK OR CHICAGO, OR EVEN WICHITA, WITH HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH SMALL TOWN AMERICA.

EVEN WHEN WE ENACT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY -- AS WE TRIED TO DO WITH THE SO-CALLED EACH/PEACH PROGRAM -- WE DON'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

SO, WE COME HERE TODAY TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM YOU; TO LISTEN, TO LEARN AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH LONG AFTER THE FORUM IS OVER.

LET'S KEEP WORKING TOGETHER. I THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.