



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1977

FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY A.M.'S

DOLE STRESSES GOP LINCOLN ROOTS

Denver, Colo. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) reminded Republicans Friday evening that their roots as a party are found in the still sound principles of human liberty enunciated over a century ago by Abraham Lincoln.

Addressing a Lincoln Day Republican dinner in the Brown Palace Hotel, Dole said Republicans of all ideological persuasion share the common roots of Lincoln's heritage.

"At a time when many Americans are intensely interested in all the details of their ancestral origins, it is important that the Republican party remember where it came from," he declared.

Referring to the author of the book "Roots," who explored his African ancestry, Dole said: "Like Alex Haley's forebearers -- who were freed from bondage in the cause that Mr. Lincoln led -- the Republican party has endured misfortune in the recent past."

But the party's 1976 vice presidential nominee asserted that the national ticket lost not because of the positions it took, but "because we did not do a good enough job of getting our message across."

Lincoln's quest for liberty and freedom remain unfulfilled, Dole said.

"Today our people strain against the bonds of an over-regulated society," he continued.

Fuel shortages in many parts of the country, and economic distress on the farm and in the city, are partly attributable to mistaken federal policies, the Senator charged, with little prospect that President Carter's reorganization plans will result in any more than a reshuffling of the bureaucracy.

He promised that Republicans in Congress would push specific workable alternatives to the Carter economic package which stresses public employment and public works spending. Dole is the sponsor of a bill for an employment tax credit that would give a tax advantage to employers who hire additional workers.

(Full text attached)

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REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
LINCOLN DAY DINNER
DENVER, COLORADO
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Once again a grateful nation observes the anniversary of Lincoln's birth. For Republicans it is a traditional special occasion for us to recognize and consider our roots as a party. At a time when many Americans are intensely interested in all the details of their ancestral origins, it is important that the Republican Party remember where it came from...and that it was founded on Lincoln's noble principle of human liberty during a trying stage in our history.

Like Alex Haley's forebearers -- who were freed from bondage in the cause Mr. Lincoln led -- the Republican Party has endured misfortune in the recent past. We lost some elections last year. Keep in mind, though, that if a few more Republican voters had turned out in a few key precinct in a few key states, the electoral vote outcome would have been different.

ROOM FOR MANY

We lost not because of the positions we took -- and certainly not because of the principles we share as Republicans -- but because we did not do a good enough job of getting our message across. Our image to some was that of "Aginners."

It is no time for Republicans to insist on uniformity of thought or style.

We cannot afford screening tests or entrance examinations.

So long as our roots are sound, there is room in the Republican garden for many varieties.

It is time for us to rediscover and reaffirm where we came from and what we stand for -- our common roots as a party. In an age of ever more complicated technology, the quest for human liberty is still unsatisfied. Today our people strain against the bonds of an over-regulated society. In agriculture, the economy and -- most recently -- the supply of energy -- indeed in every corner of our lives -- Americans yearn for freedom from bureaucratic domination.

The new administration in Washington appears headed in a familiar direction -- a weakening of national defense -- a continued high rate of government spending -- and government programs that invariably extend controls of one sort or another over nearly every aspect of our lives.

DRAFT PARDON WRONG

The unconscionable blanket pardon of Vietnam draft evaders -- without any pledge of allegiance to the country whose citizenship they once renounced -- is an example of how I believe the President is out of step with a majority of the American people.

Mr. Carter projects an engaging zest going about his new duties. His first decisions have been coated with a thick covering of public relations syrup. We see a lot of sweaters and symbolic gestures around the White House. While I wish him well, it will take a lot more than symbols and flashy PR to solve our problems.

In the end, whatever substance emerges from the Democratic Congress is certain to involve the hand of the federal government on your shoulder and in your pocket.

REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVES

Republicans of whatever garden variety stand for less government, lower taxes, and problem-solving that draws on the strengths of the private enterprise system. It is possible to present more sensible concrete alternatives to Democratic proposals -- and the Republicans in Congress are doing that this year.

Much of the nation has been suffering from a severe shortage of natural gas. Schools, stores and other working places had to be shut down in many states. Although the warning signs were clear for all to see, the last Congress did nothing to increase production of fuel. Distortions in the market are created by unrealistic government regulation. Future supplies cannot be predicted. Depending on where they live, some consumers pay more, others pay less.

Meanwhile, the new Congress has responded to the winter crisis in a characteristic cosmetic fashion -- by sending the President a so-called Emergency Natural Gas Act that does nothing to increase badly needed supplies of natural gas. The legislation is merely intended to distribute the shortage more evenly around the country.

DEREGULATION OVERDUE

Deregulation of natural gas at the wellhead is long overdue, but the President's stand is unclear. As a candidate, he said one thing in the southwest and another in the northwest. As President...we'll have to wait and see.

Under the circumstances, it is reasonable to suspect that any reorganization of the federal government to be undertaken by the Democratic administration is likely to be a mere shuffling of the bureaucracy. The need to make some sense out of the bureaucracy -- and to make the government more responsive to you -- is urgent. Republicans were fighting for efficient reorganization of the executive branch long before Jimmy Carter ever saw the Statehouse in Atlanta. Congress should be a partner in working out the details of the reorganization plan. But we continue to support the objective -- particularly if the cost and complexity of the bureaucracy can be shrunk in size.

We can agree, too, that economic stimulus is called for -- policies that are expansionary without being inflationary. The President has proposed a one-shot \$50 tax rebate and a big program of temporary federally financed jobs. Our alternative is a permanent tax cut and an employment tax credit.

As far back as 1965, I introduced a bill for an employment tax credit. Employers -- private employers -- would be encouraged to put more workers on their payrolls because the federal government, in effect, would be picking up part of the additional wage cost. Given a choice between raising prices and increasing production by hiring more workers, and thus creating more real jobs, employers would have every reason to choose the latter course.

This is an example of sensible, workable Republican alternatives to Democratic policies. The party need not be perceived as obstructionist, if we come up with and dramatize better ways of solving public problems. In this instance Republicans prefer to leave more tax money in the pockets of people to use as they see best; and to target an employment tax credit where it will do the most permanent good.

FUTURE CAN BE BRIGHT

Judging from past experience, the decisions that are dictated by the Democratic administration and the Democratic majorities in Congress will push toward more government regulation. If that happens, these decisions will not be in accord with the views of a majority of the American people.

That is the reason Republicans need not be downcast on this Lincoln Day weekend. The future of the party can be bright if we go out and convince the voters that we have their best interests at heart.

Ultimately, our case will prevail because of our principles -- proud principles that were handed down to us by the man whose birthday we celebrate this weekend.

Our roots as a party run deep. They will stand the test of today -- and tomorrow.