



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE HITS CARTER DEFENSE PLANS

CHEYENNE, WYO. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) warned Sunday that the United States should not be weakening its defense posture at a crucial stage in the arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union.

In a Republican Lincoln Day dinner speech here, Dole said President Carter's choice of a chief negotiator raised serious doubts about Mr. Carter's commitment to a defense capability that is second to none.

The nominee, Paul Warnke, was criticized last week at Senate confirmation hearings because of allegations that he favored unilateral cutbacks in U.S. arms.

Dole also cited the President's reported desire to reduce the number of intercontinental missiles.

"Is this how we negotiate, by throwing the bargaining chips before sitting down at the table?" the Senator asked.

Turning to the shortage of natural gas in many parts of the nation this winter, Dole emphasized his support for price deregulation which he said would free untapped sources of Wyoming fuel for the market.

He reiterated his opposition to new federal controls over coal mining by praising Wyoming's state law which he said had permitted the right balance between natural resource development and environmental protection.

(Full Text Attached)

Remarks of Senator Bob Dole
Lincoln Day
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Sunday, February 13, 1977

It's that season identified on Republican political calendars as "Lincoln Day." But Lincoln Day is not just a calendar event. For Republicans, it's a traditional occasion for us to recognize and consider our roots as a party.

Ours is a party founded on the principle of human liberty, a party born in the struggle which was so magnificently chronicled in the "Roots" of Alex Haley's family. Abraham Lincoln and the other fathers of our party were committed to the ideals of liberty and the pursuit of a happiness best attained without the unwarranted intrusion of government.

Our Image Problem

And while we have endured electoral misfortune in the recent past, we haven't lost because of the positions we took, and certainly not because of the principles we share as Republicans. We just didn't get our message across. To many, we are perceived as a party of "againsters," a party that cares for the rich and not the poor; the businessman and not the consumer; the industrialist and not the environmentalist; those who can help themselves and not those who need help. But you and I know that this is not true. We know that the party of Lincoln is still the party of the people, that our philosophy of limited government and individual liberty best represents the views of most of the citizens of Wyoming and most Americans.

Ours is a party that is -- and should be -- open to all. We do not -- and must not -- insist on uniformity of thought or style. We cannot afford entrance examinations. So long as our roots are sound -- and they are -- there is room in the Republican garden for many varieties.

It is time for us to rediscover and reaffirm what we stand for, our common roots as a party. In an age of advanced technology, the quest of 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 government domination.

Separating the Two Parties

And that is the central issue separating the two parties in 1977. The new Administration in Washington appears to be dedicated to a continued high rate of government spending on programs that invariably extend controls of one sort or another over nearly every aspect of our lives. And there is no doubt that the Democratic Congress is even more enthusiastic about the wisdom of active government meddling.

President Carter is going about his duties with admirable zest, but early moves have been more symbolic than real. In the end, however, whatever emerges from the Democratic Congress is certain to involve the heavy hand of government on your shoulder and in your pocketbook.

Republican Alternatives

Republicans stand for less government, lower taxes, and problem-solving that draws on the strengths of the private enterprise system and local decision-making. It is possible to present more sensible concrete alternatives to Democratic proposals -- and the Republicans in Congress are doing that this year. But, believe me, it would be a lot easier if there were more of us in Washington. On this point, I commend the Republicans in Wyoming for sending another strong Republican voice -- that of Malcolm Wallop -- to the Senate.

On any number of issues, Republican positions are sound, our programs are responsive and politically appealing.

The Energy Crisis

As you know, 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 absolutely nothing to increase the production of fuel. Distortions in the market are created by unrealistic government regulation. Future supplies are unpredictable. And 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, sending the President a so-called Emergency Natural Gas Act that does nothing to increase badly needed supplies of natural gas.

Deregulation of natural gas at the well-head is long overdue, but the President's stand is unclear. One thing is clear: If President Ford, Cliff Hansen, and the Republicans had been listened to in the last Congress, supplies of natural gas for homes outside of Wyoming, for fertilizer for American farms, and for American business might not be in such short supply today. Perhaps more natural gas right here in Wyoming would be on stream by now. And, remember, too, it was the Republicans who pressed for a balanced domestic coal mining policy, which permits necessary surface mining while protecting the environment. President Carter and the Democrats in Congress would be well-advised to study Wyoming's coal statutes before plunging ahead with a new federal law which might unduly restrict mining of our most abundant natural resource.

National Security

Just as in the need for domestic energy development, our advocacy of a strong national defense is undiminished in 1977. And I think the American people agree with me.

Under Republican leadership, the 1976 budget reflected in real growth in national defense spending for the first time in years. For the five preceding years, Congress had responded to pleas for cutting federal spending by saying "take it out of defense." And that's what we did. Almost \$40 billion was trimmed from the defense budget by Congress. We heard the same pleas last year. But thanks to a great effort by President Ford and the Republicans, the pressures of an election year, and most importantly, the commitment of the American people, we passed a defense budget that reflected our real defense needs and the current international situation.

As you will recall, during the campaign defense issues were crucial. President Carter promised a strong defense, fulfillment of international commitments, and a strong negotiating position in our dealing with the Soviet Union. And that's what the American people wanted. But is that what they are going to get?

Some of the President's nominations -- including that of Paul Warnke to be our arms control negotiator -- raise serious doubts. Mr. Warnke's advocacy of unilateral cutbacks by the United States is inconsistent with the President's campaign pledge of a defense capability second to none. But even more disturbing are reports that the President himself has expressed a desire to drastically reduce the number of inter-continental missiles, a move which would, in all probability, lead to the closing of Wanes Air Force Base here in Cheyenne.

Is this how we should negotiate, by throwing away the bargaining chips before sitting down at the table? We all remember how the Soviet government chose to "test" the new Kennedy Administration in Berlin and Cuba back in the early 60's, and I think it would be a serious mistake to indicate any weakness on our part now when it comes to disarmament talks or defense appropriations. I know we can count on Cliff Hansen and Malcolm Wallop and the other Senate Republicans to closely scrutinize any strategic arms agreement -- when and if one is presented to us for ratification.

Wyoming Agriculture

Wyoming ranchers and farmers must also be concerned about the lack of immediate attention given to agriculture by the new Administration. Farmers and ranchers here, as in my home state of Kansas, are confronted with a dose of hard, not particularly pleasant, economic facts. Farm prices are too low. Farm problems demand immediate action. The Administration owes it to the farmers and ranchers here in Wyoming and everywhere to move expeditiously on this problem. And we Republicans are ready to help.

Government Reform

And we'll help President Carter reorganize the federal government to make it more responsive to the American people. The need to make some sense out of the bureaucracy is urgent. Republicans were fighting for efficient reorganization of the executive branch long before President Carter took office.

The Economy

On the economy, I agree with President Carter that an economic stimulus program is advisable. But we want a policy that is expansionary without being inflationary. The President has called for a one-shot \$50 tax rebate in a large-scale program of temporary federally financed jobs. We think the American people deserve permanent tax reductions, not just temporary relief. We want to help encourage permanent, rewarding, productive employment in the private sector. To this effect as far back as 1965, I advocated enactment of legislation to provide indirect wage subsidy -- a tax credit -- to private employers who hire more workers on their payrolls. 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 a sensible, workable Republican alternative to Democratic policies. It demonstrates that our party need not be perceived as obstructionist or negative. It is sound economically and politically attractive.

Future of the GOP

So, the issues are there. The opportunities are there. The future of the Republican party in Wyoming and across the nation can be bright. But it won't be unless we let the people know where we stand, why we stand there, and convince them that we have their best interests at heart. We must recognize that people are not going to come beating on our door, begging to be Republicans. We have to go out and get them. I think we should focus heavily on recruitment. We need the women, the young, the blacks, the Hispanics, the ethnics, and the Indians. We need working men and women.

These groups may not be easy to reach. But how better to test the vitality of our Republican beliefs than by persuading these groups, face to face, as individuals, that what we stand for best serves their interest. How better to demonstrate that we stand for the interest of all Americans by reaching out across the whole broad spectrum of our population for new members and new candidates.

But strong candidates and Republican elected officials are not enough. They are not the key to making our party strong. Anyone who has ever run for public office knows that the battle is won or lost in the trenches -- when the housewives, farmers, business men and women, and laborers are together. It's the grass roots effort that it takes to win. And it's going to take just such an effort to restore the GOP.

We don't have to wait to make our comeback. If we work hard, act constructively, talk in a positive manner, and if we begin now. Indeed, if we don't begin now, we may not have a comeback.

So we have sacrifices to make. We have tremendous opportunities. We have hard work to do.

Today, when we honor the founder of our party, is a good day to begin.

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