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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY: 9:00 P.M., Saturday,
February 26, 1977.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday AM's

DOLE CRITICIZES CARTER BUDGET

KEANSBURG, N.J. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) expressed disappointment Saturday at President Carter's revisions in the federal budget.

He criticized the size of the projected deficit and the Democratic Administration's rejection of the trend toward simplification of federal grants.

Speaking at a Monmouth County Republican dinner, Dole predicted that deferred requests for spending by the Administration would add substantially to the planned budgetary deficit.

The budget changes that were recommended by Mr. Carter last Tuesday would increase by over \$19 billion the federal outlays requested by former President Ford in the next fiscal year. The new President placed the deficit at \$68 billion this year and \$57.7 billion next year.

At that, Dole said the President had deferred a number of difficult policy decisions, including health, welfare reform and energy, that could boost next year's deficit even higher.

FAVORS EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT

Government spending is a major factor in price inflation, Dole declared. He said rising personal expenditures for food and shelter have gone up only one-third as much as taxes in recent years.

The Kansan, who was the 1976 Republican Vice Presidential nominee, charged that the Carter budget put too much emphasis on public works spending, which he described as an inefficient, slow-acting solution to the unemployment problem. He proposed a permanent tax cut and a special tax credit for employers who hire additional workers.

A major thrust of the Ford Administration had been to combine separate categories of federal aid into block grants. This reduced the red-tape involved in the application procedures and gave local officials more leeway in determining how money could be spent.

Dole challenged the wisdom of President Carter's decision, contained in Tuesday's budget message, that Congress is in a better position to assess national needs and control the expenditures of federal funds at the local level. The effect of this will be to renew the proliferation of multiple grant programs according to uniform specifications prescribed in Washington.



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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

MONMOUTH COUNTY REPUBLICAN LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Keansburg, New Jersey
Saturday, February 26, 1977

This month of February is the traditional occasion for Republicans to come together, re-examine our roots as a party, and consider their meaning for the future. At a time when many Americans are intensely interested in all the details they can uncover of their ancestral origins, it is particularly important that the Republican party remember where it came from . . . and that it was founded on Lincoln's noble and timeless principles of human liberty.

In an ever more complicated world, the quest for liberty takes different forms, and is never ending. More often than not, the critical problems that we face as a nation are made worse by bureaucratic strangulation in Washington. While many of our citizens are trying desperately to improve their lives, there is in our land a widening resentment of our over-regulated society.

In Tune With The People

We lost, first, because we did not do a good enough job of linking the positions that we took to the every day interests of enough people. The positions that we took were sound. They were based on sound principles. And they were in tune with the attitudes and desires of the American people. But we did not do a good enough job of getting our message across.

Among some American groups, Republicans are still thought of as "aginers" -- 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 in need. There are some built-in reasons, of course, why the minority party in Congress tends to be seen in a negativist role. For that matter, some of the most important documents in human history have been "obstructionist" in their intent -- take the Ten Commandments, for example.

But our recent experience should tell us that where there are pressing public problems, just saying "no" will not do. We've got to come up with specific, concrete, viable alternatives to Democratic problems. Which is exactly what Republicans in Congress are trying to do in this session.

Beyond that, I know, and you know, that we cannot write off entire groups of Americans -- I'm thinking now of ten million minority group citizens -- Blacks and the Spanish-speaking and other racial minorities -- and expect to be anything but a frustrated, quibbling voice in the wilderness. It is unthinkable that this be permitted to happen to the party of Lincoln.

Principles Not Enough

During the month of February, it has always been customary at affairs like this for Republican orators to invoke the memory of our founder, and to point out -- again and again -- that it was a Republican President who freed Alex Haley's forebearers from bondage.

That's fine, but if we don't know already, we ought to know now -- that isn't enough to impress Alex Haley's sons and grandsons.

Effectively broadening the base of our party cannot be achieved by principle alone. Elections are won by enunciating issues that touch the lives of ordinary people. Elections are won by strong grass roots organizations.

Election For Governor In New Jersey

Here in New Jersey, your party is in an enviable position. You have an opportunity to refute the notion, fashionable in some circles, that the Republican party is withering away and will soon be extinct. You can demonstrate for the nation that a well-organized Republican victory in the special Minnesota congressional election was an encouraging sign for all of us. As

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you know, New Jersey and Virginia are the only states electing governors this year. And only in New Jersey are Republicans in a position to unseat a Democratic incumbent.

A Republican victory in New Jersey will provide a tremendous psychological boost to the party all across the nation. We are grateful for the 21,000 vote majority that always dependable Monmouth County gave the Ford-Dole ticket in November. Do as well, or better, this November and Republicans everywhere can look to the future with new hope and optimism.

Republican Alternatives

On economic policy, the energy crisis, national security, housing, urban revitalization, government reorganization, and in many other areas, Republicans can offer fresh common-sense ideas that draw on the strength of the private sector, reverse the burgeoning growth of the central government, and wind up costing taxpayers less.

These are positions consistent with Republican principles. These are positions consistent with the thinking of most of the American people. These are positions which Republicans of whatever subtitle and from whatever region of our country -- from New Jersey or Kansas, or even Georgia -- can endorse enthusiastically.

A case in point is the block grant approach to federal spending. Over the years, Congress devised a multitude of so-called categorical programs, all with their separate rules and application procedures. Before local officials could make use of federal aid to meet some local need, they had to master the maze of available programs, learn which combinations would be helpful, and then fill out all the required forms. It was, and is, a frustrating, nerve-racking ordeal.

Republicans proposed, first, general revenue sharing, the automatic return of some of your federal tax dollars back to your communities for discretionary spending by the people who know your problems best, those who are closest to home. And, second, President Ford's Administration called for the consolidation of categorical grants. Hardly a revolutionary idea, it is eminently sensible. What it does is say: Instead of applying for a half dozen different grant programs, all with their separate rolls of red tape, why not combine them all in one flexible program for community development, for instance? Your local officials would still have to make application, but on one set of forms instead of dozens.

In the budget revisions that he sent to Congress the other day, President Carter recommended that the trend toward the consolidation of federal grants be reversed and stopped. He said that Congress knows best what your needs are in Monmouth County. And, what's more, Congress knows best how to spend public funds to meet these needs, the same guidelines, priorities, and multiple regulations in Keansburg as in Salina, Kansas.

Now "block grants" is not a subject that will set people to marching in the streets. It's not as compelling or as exciting as abortion or taxes or the cost of fuel. But it is important; it involves fundamental principles of government; and eventually it will affect the pocket books of Americans in all walks of life.

Jobs And Inflation

More and costlier government need not be the necessary response to every concern.

Instead of temporary public service jobs that employ the jobless at expensive projects that often are make-work projects, we favor the employment tax credit -- a tax incentive to employ additional workers in permanent, private sector jobs.

Republicans are concerned about inflation. We know that the sector which has the greatest impact on inflation is the public sector. Since 1950, the tax burden has increased by nearly 600 percent for every man, woman and child in America. Expenditures for food and shelter have gone up only about one-third as fast. That is why we stand for permanent tax cuts. That is why I believe why the deficit in the federal budget for the next fiscal year can be brought below the almost \$58 billion planned by President Carter.

If we articulate what we stand for in terms that can be understood by all Americans, there is no cause for Republicans to be downcast this February. We must open the doors of our party to all of our so-called ethnic groups. We are in no shape to be imposing screening tests or entrance examinations.

Tribute To Kay Neuberger

Once again, we must do more to recognize the role of women in our party -- from top to bottom -- as candidates, officeholders, and as workers. It is a special pleasure for me to be here this evening because of the honor that you are justly bestowing on Kay Neuberger. I had the good fortune to be national chairman during a part of Kay's 16 years as your national committeewoman. She is but one example of the millions of women across the country who form the nucleus of our party.

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So the Republican party has something to offer all Americans, and it is our duty to spread the word at party meetings, at union halls, over the back fence and at the corner grocery store. People are the driving force of our party. The rank and file workers, not the leaders, make it happen. If each registered Republican would enlist just one new party member this next year, we would do more than elect a governor of New Jersey; we would be the majority party. It doesn't take much from each of us, but it demands something from all of us.

Ultimately our cause can prevail, for the positions are consistent with the best interests of all our people.

Ultimately our cause will prevail because of our principles. Our principles are sound. Our roots are sound. They will, God willing, stand the test of today, and tomorrow, and all the days to come.

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