

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY IN THE ROTUNDA
MAY 2, 1989

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) DELIVERED REMARKS TODAY AT THE ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY IN THE U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA. THE CEREMONY, ENTITLED "DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE", IS SPONSORED EACH YEAR BY THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL. DOLE IS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL. THE TEXT OF DOLE'S REMARKS FOLLOWS:

IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, THIS CHAMBER WILL BE ILLUMINATED BY A HALF-DOZEN FLICKERING CANDLES, THEIR LIGHT REKINDLING OUR MEMORIES OF THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY OF THE HOLOCAUST.

OUR MEMORIES ARE OF THE MILLIONS WHO DIED, AND THE MANY, MANY OTHERS WHO -- THOUGH THEY SURVIVED -- CARRIED WITH THEM THROUGHOUT THEIR REMAINING LIVES THE PERMANENT SCARS OF THE HORRORS THEY SUFFERED. SOME OF THEM ARE WITH US TODAY IN PERSON, PARTICIPATING IN OUR CANDLE-LIGHTING AND OTHER PARTS OF OUR PROGRAM. ALL OF THEM, THOUGH, ARE HERE TODAY IN SPIRIT -- IN OUR MINDS AND IN OUR HEARTS.

WE HAVE MEMORIES, TOO -- BITTER, BITTER MEMORIES -- OF THE PEOPLE WHO PERPETRATED THESE INHUMAN ACTS. AND MEMORIES NO LESS BITTER OF THE ANONYMOUS MILLIONS OF OTHERS WHO JUST STOOD BY, AND LET IT HAPPEN.

WE ARE HUMAN, SO OUR THOUGHTS OF THESE PEOPLE ARE ANGRY STILL. WE ASK EVEN TODAY: HOW COULD THEY DO IT? HOW COULD THEY LET IT HAPPEN? AND WE HAVE NO GOOD ANSWER.

BUT WE STRIVE TO A BETTER HUMANITY -- AND SO OUR THOUGHTS TODAY ARE NOT OF REVENGE. REVENGE HAS NO PLACE IN THIS CEREMONY, NOR IN THE MUSEUM WE ARE BUILDING, NOR IN OUR HEARTS. WE REMEMBER -- NOT TO LOOK BACK IN HATE; BUT TO LOOK AHEAD IN HOPE, AND IN DETERMINATION THAT THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

AND NEITHER ARE ALL OF OUR MEMORIES BITTER. BECAUSE WE REMEMBER, TOO, THE TENACIOUS CHARACTER OF THOSE MILLIONS WHO SUFFERED, NEVER LETTING THEIR AWFUL PLIGHT UNDERMINE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS IN BOTH GOD AND MAN. WE REMEMBER THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO STRUGGLED -- WHO STOOD UP TO NAZI TERROR AND REFUSED TO GIVE IN, EVEN TO THEIR DEATH.

WE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF OUR OWN COUNTRYMEN, AND CITIZENS OF NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, WHO FOUGHT AGAINST HITLER'S TYRANNY; WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES TO LIBERATE THE ENSLAVED; WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE FREEDOM WE STILL CHERISH TODAY.

THEY ARE ALL HEROES -- AND THEIR LIVES, AND DEEDS, AND COURAGE FILL OUR THOUGHTS TODAY. AND JUST AS THOSE SIX CANDLES KINDLE ALL THESE THOUGHTS, THE HUMANITY OF THESE HEROES REKINDLES OUR SPIRITS, AND OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THE PHYSICAL ACTS OF THE HOLOCAUST ENDED MORE THAN FOUR DECADES AGO; THE MEMORIES OF THE HOLOCAUST ARE STILL WITH US TODAY; AND THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST MUST REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOREVER.

THAT IS OUR PROMISE; THAT IS OUR DETERMINATION. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO PRESERVE A HUMANE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN; AND THE ONLY WAY TO GIVE THOSE SIX MILLION VICTIMS, FINALLY, THEIR OWN TRUE PEACE.

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