

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
AT 4TH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD BANQUET
HUGOTON, KANSAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1964

I never cease to be impressed with the fact that our American patriots and our founding fathers had one over-riding and prevailing concern...and that was the quest for liberty...not peace..but liberty!

These men in their divinely inspired wisdom knew that unless man was free, there could be no peace. They held the idea that all men were endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights...among which were life and liberty! They also believed that inasmuch as these rights were God-given they were not to be taken away by man...and that if government was to have any major responsibility to the governed...it was the protection of these rights and liberties. This was their concern and they proceeded to build within the framework of our government body a system of checks and balances designed to protect the citizen against the possibility of a government which might in time grow too centralized and too arbitrary in the use of its power...forgetting its prime responsibility as a protector of the life and liberty of the governed.

Recognizing the importance of liberty...and the thirst for liberty inherent in all men, the cause found many impassioned champions such as Patrick Henry and Tom Paine.

But who speaks for Liberty today? Not a day goes by but what I read or hear of someone who is speaking of peace...but not so often of liberty. Where today do we find our Patrick Henrys...our Nathan Hales...our Benjamin Franklins...our George Washingtons...our Thomas Paines...our Paul Reveres or our Daniel Websters...all early leaders within whom the flames of freedom burned so brightly.

are picking up the torch of liberty and holding it aloft so as to inspire others, and I firmly believe there are such people with us here tonight.

During this past year we have experienced a great national tragedy, ^{but} we must and we will move forward, for 1964 brings with it new hopes and aspirations for a better life for everyone and likewise, brings new challenges to all of us.

This era of swift change, technological and social, is uniquely a young man's time. Never before in history have young men had such great opportunities, and such heavy responsibilities. Throughout the world young men are advancing in struggles for freedom and independence. In nations seeking to better their people's standards, young men are presenting constructive ideas and providing leadership. They have the energy, the education, and the flexibility to meet the challenge of change.

With change comes many opportunities. In national, state and local governments, the movement toward young men is apparent. In the Administration, in Congress, in State Legislatures, and in County Courthouses the young are demonstrating their special talents for government and politics.

Politics. Politician. What a variety of meanings those words do have. A statesman is fine, something to go after, but a politician.....

Politics and politicians, of course, have been under attack for years. An early-day American humorist, Artemus Ward, once said, in recommending himself for a job: "I am not a politician, and my other habits are good." Thus it has gone. Politics has been the subject of jest and ridicule. Political office holders have been scrutinized, analyzed, ostracized, scandalized and, in general, made to feel that perhaps in trying to

steer the course of government they had unwittingly strayed from the straight and narrow and joined Ali Babba or Captain Kidd.

I fear too many Americans have succumbed, or drifted, into this general feeling about politics. We have a national shame that transcends our slums, our pockets of unemployment, or any other shortcomings you may care to mention. It is our indifference to the sacred right to choose our leaders at all levels of government.

So, I call upon you to shuck whatever shell of misconception, indifference, or disinterest you may have been wearing. I invite you to wade into politics and get your feet wet. You will find it frustrating, stimulating, and educational. You will have a sense of genuine satisfaction in having taken an active part in your nation's political life.

We all have within us political emotion, lying dormant like a volcano. We despise injustice, we detest graft, and corruption, we demand law enforcement, and efficient handling of the people's business. That is, we think we do. Busy with our private problems, apathetic toward candidates, uninformed about issues, we let someone else take the responsibility. When we discover, finally, that a political "machine" has taken over our prerogatives we let our volcanic political energy erupt, usually with considerable damage. We forget that democracy, like farming and business, doesn't happen voluntarily. It has to be worked at persistently, patiently, and intelligently. By this steady, diligent effort, we could prevent need for explosive action. We could, in short, assure constantly the good government we are all so much in favor of.

It seems unnecessary, on an evening such as this, when we honor men who have served their community, to point out to this particular gathering the importance of interest in government affairs--at all levels. But this is so important; as all of us are the very guardians of the free-

domes of future generations. This document is from the collections at the Dole Archives, University of Kansas
<http://dolearchives.ku.edu> If you are interested in preserving and extending our free enterprise system, in keeping the power of local, state, and federal governments in proper perspective and in elevating the caliber of public officials, then your responsibility is clear.

In closing I should like to read something from George Washington's message to The American Troops before The Battle of Long Island---

"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be Freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of a brave resistance or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die."

1964 has the beginnings of a very good year, it is up to us to carry it through to a successful completion.

The leaders referred to on Page 1 were young men:

- PATRICK HENRY made his first important contribution, opposition to the Stamp Act, at the age of 29. He made his greatest speech.... "give me liberty, or give me death!" at the age of 39.
- NATHAN HALE was barely old enough to be a member of the Jay Cees when he was executed by the British as a spy and made his famous comment, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." He was 21.
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN established his first newspaper, Pennsylvania Gazette, at the age of 26. When only slightly older than a Jay Cee (42), he retired from active supervision of his lucrative business and devoted all his time to scientific research and public service for the rest of his long life.
- GEORGE WASHINGTON was too young to be a Jay Cee when he accepted his first job as a surveyor. He was 15. By the time he could join the Jay Cees, he made the famous winter trip to Pennsylvania, and was deeply involved in the French and Indian War at 21. He was already an outstanding young farmer. At 26 he was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and opposed the Stamp Act.
- THOMAS PAINE was almost old enough to "graduate" from the Jay Cees, at 39, when he wrote his first famous pamphlet, Common Sense. He did not arrive in America until he was 37.
- PAUL REVERE began participating in politics at the age of 21 but he was slightly overage for the Jay Cees when he made his famous midnight ride. He was 40.
- DANIEL WEBSTER was already a famous, and wealthy, lawyer when he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives at 31. His great orations, on which much of his fame rests, were given during his forties.

The following received Jay Cee Awards:

Distinguished Service.....GENTRY MAY
Outstanding Young Farmer.....LARRY RANDLE
Outstanding Young Teacher.....DAVE CATRON
Outstanding Boss.....DAMON HUBBARD