

KANSAS YOUNG REPUBLICAN FEDERATION
BIENNIAL CONVENTION
DECEMBER 2, 1967
HUTCHINSON, KANS.
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

"A YEAR FROM TONIGHT, YOU AND I, AND OTHERS DEDICATED TO REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES WILL BE LOOKING BACK AT THE RESULTS OF THE 1968 PRESIDENTIAL YEAR ELECTIONS.

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE'LL BE LOOKING BACK ON A LOSING ELECTION -- OR LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW ERA OF SOUND, TRULY PROGRESSIVE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON -- LARGELY DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU AND I AND OTHER REPUBLICANS DO IN THE NEXT ELEVEN MONTHS.

TONIGHT, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT REPUBLICAN VICTORY IN 1968.

WE CAN WIN IN '68. WE'RE GOING TO WIN IN '68.

BUT DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THE JOB WILL BE EASY. NO MATTER HOW DEEP PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION MAY RUN AGAINST THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON -- NO MATTER HOW MANY PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOW REPUBLICANS GAINING AND DEMOCRATS LOSING GROUND -- VICTORY IN '68 WON'T COME WITHOUT AN ALL - OUT PARTY EFFORT.

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IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE REPUBLICANS -- YOUNG, OLD AND MIDDLE-AGED ALIKE -- BEGIN STUDYING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST THREE-AND-A-HALF DECADES. FOR WHAT THE HISTORY OF THESE YEARS TELLS US IS THAT EVEN THOUGH THE DEMOCRATS MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO RUN A COUNTRY, THEY DO KNOW HOW TO WIN ELECTIONS.

LOOK AT THE RECORD:

FOR 27 OF THE PAST 35 YEARS, A DEMOCRAT PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

FOR 31 OF THESE YEARS, DEMOCRATS HAVE CONTROLLED CONGRESS.

NOW, I DON'T RECITE THESE FIGURES TO DISCOURAGE YOU. I SIMPLY WANT TO DRIVE HOME THE FACT THAT WE CAN'T BEGIN COUNTING OUR ELECTORAL CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED.

WE CAN DEFEAT LYNDON JOHNSON. WE CAN REPLACE HIS ADMINISTRATION'S DISCREDITED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WITH A REPUBLICAN PROFILE OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND PRESERVATION OF OUR FREEDOM. BUT IF WE HOPE TO LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW REPUBLICAN ERA BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1969, WE MUST WORK NOW TO LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THERE'S A BETTER WAY THAN LBJ.

FOR, MAKE NO MISTAKE. WE CANNOT WIN IN '68 SIMPLY BY BEING AGAINST WHAT LYNDON JOHNSON AND THE DEMOCRATS REPRESENT. REPUBLICANS MUST DO MORE TO WIN.

WE CAN ELECT REPUBLICANS TO STATE AND LOCAL OFFICES.
WE CAN ELECT REPUBLICANS TO THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE.
WE CAN ELECT A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT. WE CAN DO ALL
OF THIS BY CONVINCING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE ANSWERS
TO THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FACING OUR COUNTRY.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE PROBLEMS -- THE
MAJOR ISSUES THAT WILL DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF NEXT YEAR'S
ELECTIONS?

FIRST, THERE'S THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE.
THE WAR IN VIETNAM REFLECTS A COMPREHENSIVE
DEMOCRAT FAILURE IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN POLICY. WE KNOW
THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF
DEMOCRAT INDECISIVENESS -- DEMOCRAT VACILLATION --
DEMOCRAT POLICIES WHICH HAVE FAILED TO CURB THE DE-
VELOPMENT OF THE KIND OF FOREIGN POLICY TRAGEDY WE ARE NOW
ENDURING IN VIETNAM.

A-DECADE-AND-A-HALF AGO A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION
CAME TO POWER IN WASHINGTON -- AND BROUGHT THE BLOODY
WAR IN KOREA TO AN HONORABLE CONCLUSION. WE ENJOYED
EIGHT YEARS OF PEACE UNDER THAT REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION.
AND WHEN IT LEFT OFFICE, UNITED STATES POWER -- AND
PRESTIGE -- WAS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BUT LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR COUNTRY'S PRESTIGE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SINCE THE DAY EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE.

THE DEMOCRATS CAME TO POWER PROMISING TO RAISE U.S. PRESTIGE. YET TODAY, IN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, OUR TREATIES AND ALLIANCES ARE IN DISARRAY. IN FACT, SACKING AMERICAN EMBASSIES HAS BECOME A NEW FORM OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS? THE CASUALTY REPORTS SHOW THAT WE STAND ALMOST ALONE IN CARRYING THE BURDEN OF THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

WHILE LYNDON SUGGESTS BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING TO COMMUNIST NATIONS, THESE SAME NATIONS ARE FURNISHING WAR MATERIAL TO BE USED BY COMMUNIST TROOPS AGAINST AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN IN VIETNAM.

CLEARLY, OUR COUNTRY CAN'T AFFORD FOUR MORE YEARS OF THE KIND OF PRESTIGE - BUILDING THE DEMOCRATS HAVE GIVEN US SINCE 1961. THUS, AS HAPPENED A DECADE-AND-A-HALF AGO, AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN LOOK TO A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION -- BACKED BY A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS -- TO REPLACE DEMOCRAT VACILLATION WITH A FIRM, STEADY HAND AT THE WHEEL OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON.

FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY AND FREE INSTITUTIONS AGAINST THREATS FROM OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS. BUT HERE AT HOME, RECENT YEARS OF DEMOCRAT POWER HAVE WITNESSED THE ALARMING GROWTH OF ANOTHER -- AND MORE IMMEDIATE -- THREAT TO OUR INSTITUTIONS AND FREEDOM.

THE GROWING PROBLEM OF CRIME AND DISRESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY.

AS J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, HAS POINTED OUT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY ARE CONCERNED -- THEY ARE DISTURBED -- THEY ARE AFRAID -- FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, THE SAFETY OF THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR HOMES AND THEIR BUSINESSES.

TRUE, MR. JOHNSON'S ATTORNEY GENERAL, RAMSEY CLARK, SAYS THAT THE THREAT OF CRIME IN OUR SOCIETY HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED BY STATISTICS -- AND HE CITED STATISTICS TO PROVE HIS CASE! BUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MISTAKES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIME THREAT -- AS WELL AS THE MOOD OF OUR PEOPLE.

IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, CRIME HAS RISEN BY 62 PER CENT, WHILE OUR POPULATION HAS CLIMBED BY ONLY NINE PER CENT. LAST YEAR -- 1966 -- NEARLY THREE-AND-ONE-QUARTER MILLION CRIMES WERE REPORTED IN THE UNITED STATES -- AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR. AND THE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1967 SHOW A 17 PER CENT INCREASE ABOVE THE 1966 TOTALS FOR THE SAME PERIOD!

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY BE UNCONCERNED ABOUT THESE FIGURES. BUT MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE -- AND LESS POLITICALLY - MOTIVATED -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS VIEW THE PROBLEM -- AND ITS CAUSES -- IN A CLEARER LIGHT.

TO QUOTE J. EDGAR HOOVER:

"WE HAVE SEEN A CRIMINAL FEEDBACK CAUSED BY JUDICIAL LENIENCES, INCLUDING PARDONS, PAROLES, AND PROBATION WHICH IS A DISGRACE TO OUR SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND WE HAVE SEEN LOOPHOLES, TECHNICALITIES, AND DELAYS RELEASE HUNDREDS OF HARDENED UNREPENTED CRIMINALS ON THE STREETS TO PREY AGAIN ON THE PUBLIC WHILE AWAITING TRIAL ON EASILY PROVABLE CHARGES."

THE DEMOCRAT ADMINISTRATION'S INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE CRIME PROBLEM IS THE RESULT OF AN UNDERLYING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS SPAWNED WHAT WE NOW KNOW AS "THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY."

THUS, THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATOR RECENTLY STIRRED A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF MARIJUANA USE BY YOUNG PEOPLE. DR. GODDARD HAS SINCE SOUGHT TO CLARIFY AND RE-CLARIFY HIS POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THE IMPRESSION REMAINS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT HE -- AND BY INFERENCE, THE ADMINISTRATION HE SERVES -- BELIEVE EXISTING LAWS AGAINST MARIJUANA SHOULD BE RELAXED.

AGAIN, THE SAME ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO THINKS THE CRIME PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED HAS FAILED TO MOVE FIRMLY AND QUICKLY AGAINST THE IRRESPONSIBLE MOB ELEMENT THAT OPENLY FLOUTS THE NATION'S LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS AND PROVIDES AID TO OUR COMMUNIST ENEMIES IN VIETNAM.

ONLY LAST WEEK, HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER GERALD FORD MADE KNOWN THE FACT THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAS INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE RECENT SIEGE OF THE PENTAGON BY LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS. BUT, WE ARE TOLD, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE KEPT SECRET FROM THE PUBLIC BECAUSE IT MIGHT LAUNCH A WAVE OF ANTI-COMMUNISM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED -- DISTURBED -- AFRAID -- AND HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THEIR LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON? OUR LEADERS ARE ASKING AMERICANS TO RISK THEIR LIVES FIGHTING COMMUNISTS IN VIETNAM -- YET THE ADMINISTRATION WITHHOLDS THE TRUTH FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BECAUSE IT MIGHT RESULT IN INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT!

OBVIOUSLY, THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION'S "PERMISSIVE SOCIETY" WILL PERMIT ALMOST ANYTHING -- EXCEPT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR COUNTRY!

TO BE SURE, THE RETURN OF REPUBLICANS TO POWER IN WASHINGTON WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY CURE ALL THE VARIOUS POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ILLS SPAWNED IN RECENT YEARS.

BUT IT WILL SIGNAL AN END TO THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EXCESSES -- AND TO THE EROSION OF OUR COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS -- THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED THOSE YEARS.

WE CAN LOOK FORWARD THEN TO AN AMERICAN SOCIETY BASED ON CONFIDENCE IN ITS LEADERS -- LEADERS WHO WILL BE DEDICATED TO INSPIRING AND MAINTAINING IN OUR PEOPLE A LOVE OF FREEDOM AND A RESPECT FOR THE LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT KEEP US FREE.

IN BRIEF, IF AMERICA AND AMERICAN FREEDOM IS TO SURVIVE, "THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY" -- CREATED AND DEVELOPED BY THE DEMOCRAT SOCIAL ENGINEERS AND THEORISTS -- MUST BE REPLACED BY A "CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIETY" BASED ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY APPLICATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES THAT BUILT OUR COUNTRY INTO THE GREATEST THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

THE EROSION OF AMERICAN POWER AND PRESTIGE OVERSEAS AND THE EROSIONS OF RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER HERE AT HOME WILL BE TWO MAJOR ISSUES IN 1968.

BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY MAJOR ISSUES, OF COURSE.

OUR REPUBLICAN PATH TO VICTORY MUST CONSIDER THE CONTINUING FISCAL CRISIS BROUGHT ON BY THE "PERMISSIVE" SPENDING POLICIES OF THIS AND PRIOR DEMOCRAT ADMINISTRATIONS.

CONSIDER ONLY THE FACT THAT IN THE PAST 5 YEARS THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION, ABETTED BY A DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED CONGRESS, HAS PERMITTED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SPEND \$60.5 BILLION MORE THAN IT HAS TAKEN IN!

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT MORE RESPONSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OWN PARTY -- SUCH AS CHAIRMAN WILBUR MILLS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE -- HAVE DRAWN THE LINE ON ANY TAX INCREASE UNLESS AND UNTIL THE ADMINISTRATION CURTAILS ITS PROFLIGATE DOMESTIC SPENDING PROGRAMS?

CHAIRMAN MILLS PERHAPS SEES THE FISCAL -- AND THE ELECTORAL -- HANDWRITING ON THE WALL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A STABLE DOLLAR -- AND THEY'RE TIRED OF IRRESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FISCAL POLICIES WHICH ERODE THEIR PURCHASING POWER IN THE MARKETPLACE.

THIS SITUATION RELATES DIRECTLY TO THE AREA OF FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS -- AN AREA VITAL TO OUR OWN STATE ECONOMY.

HERE, TOO, THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED -- BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE.

FOR, ADDING POLITICAL INSULT TO ECONOMIC INJURY, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HAS TRIED TO BLAME THE FARMER FOR HIGHER FOOD PRICE LEVELS BROUGHT ABOUT IN LARGE PART BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S OWN INFLATIONARY SPENDING PROGRAMS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, I AM ESPECIALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE WEAKNESSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FARM POLICIES, AS WELL AS THE PROPOSALS MADE BY REPUBLICAN MEMBERS TO IMPROVE FARM INCOME. THESE PROPOSALS -- THE AFFIRMATIVE PROPOSALS -- INCLUDED IN THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURE REPORT -- WILL CERTAINLY BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR PLANS FOR VICTORY IN '68.

I HAVE CITED SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WILL DECIDE THE 1968 ELECTIONS -- AND THE COURSE OF OUR COUNTRY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MANY OTHER ISSUES, LARGE AND SMALL, OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL SCOPE THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE'S DECISION NEXT YEAR.

OUR ABILITY TO COPE SUCCESSFULLY WITH THESE ISSUES -- TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WILL DETERMINE WHETHER A YEAR FROM TONIGHT, YOU AND I AND OTHERS DEDICATED TO REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES, WILL BE LOOKING BACK ON A LOSING ELECTION, OR AHEAD TO A NEW ERA IN WASHINGTON.

BUT THAT DECISION WON'T BE SHAPED ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER. IT WILL BE SHAPED TONIGHT, TOMORROW, AND IN THE ELEVEN MONTHS THAT LIE AHEAD.

WE -- THE REPUBLICANS -- CAN WIN IN '68 -- AND WE'RE GOING TO WIN IN '68.

LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK SHAPING THAT VICTORY, IN KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

end.