

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES  
SHERATON HOTEL  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1969

*Handwritten signature: Bob Dole*

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TO THOSE AMERICANS WHO QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF OUR DEMOCRACY, OUR ANSWER SHOULD BE TO SHOW OUR FAITH BY PARTICIPATION IN THOSE PROCESSES OF DEMOCRACY. TO THOSE WHO QUESTION THE VALUE OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, OUR ANSWER SHOULD BE TO SHOW OUR CONVICTION BY MAKING OUR BUSINESSES MORE RESPONSIVE AND SENSITIVE TO URBAN PROBLEMS. TO THOSE WHO QUESTION THE VIGOR OF OUR SOCIETY, OUR ANSWER SHOULD BE TO SHOW OUR BELIEF BY INVOLVING OURSELVES IN COMMUNITY WORK. OVER A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO, A FRENCHMAN THOUGHT HE FOUND THE UNIQUE SECRET OF OUR SOCIETY. COUNT DE TOCQUEVILLE SAID THAT THE "DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC" OF AMERICA WASN'T SO MUCH OUR TRADITION OF FREE GOVERNMENT OR OUR TRADITION OF FREE ENTERPRISE AS IT WAS OUR TRADITION OF VOLUNTARY ACTION.

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THE INITIAL EFFORT MUST BE MADE BY THE SBA THROUGH ITS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. BUT AS WITH MOST OF OUR DOMESTIC NEEDS, GOVERNMENT HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE BUT IT CAN ONLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE. WE NEED TO ENLIST THE ENERGIES OF MORE OF OUR RETIRED BUSINESSMEN AND I URGE THE SBA TO CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF ENLISTING MILLIONS OF ACTIVE BUSINESSMEN WHO STAND READY TO SERVE AND TO HELP, IF ONLY THEY ARE ASKED. THE GALLUP POLL HAS ESTIMATED THAT 61 MILLION ADULT AMERICANS WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE 245 MILLION MAN-HOURS EVERY WEEK TO VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES. SURELY, MANY OF THESE AMERICANS ARE BUSINESSMEN.

- SUPPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION -

YOUR VOLUNTARY EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHERS WHOSE HELP YOU ENLIST, WILL RECEIVE FULL SUPPORT FROM OUR NATIONAL LEADERS. PRESIDENT NIXON IS SEEKING TO CONCENTRATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON WHAT IT CAN DO BEST, AND HAS ACTED TO SUMMON THE PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY CAN DO BEST. THE PRESIDENT HAS ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM UNDER SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, GEORGE ROMNEY, TO COORDINATE INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES ON VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR DEVELOPMENT.



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- CONCLUSION -

TO THOSE WHO DOUBT OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND THE VIGOR OF OUR SOCIETY, LET US SHOW OUR FAITH BY DEEDS. LET US ANSWER THEIR PROTESTATION BY OUR PARTICIPATION. LET US REPLY TO THEIR DISSENT BY OUR INVOLVEMENT. LET THE DOUBTERS BE SHOWN BY THE DOERS. YOU AND OTHER BUSINESSMEN CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN WHETHER OUR SOCIETY PROVIDES NOT ONLY THE OPPORTUNITY BUT ALSO THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO GUARANTEE THAT EACH MAN ACHIEVES HIS POTENTIAL. LET EACH OF US REALIZE THAT THE INVESTMENT OF OUR TIME IS A HUMAN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S FUTURE.



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