

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

KAPPA SIGMA FOUNDER'S DAY BANQUET
TOPEKA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PLAZA INN, TOPEKA, KANSAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1969



KAPPA SIGMA'S CENTENNIAL

IN PREPARING TO COME HERE TONIGHT TO "BREAK BREAD" AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS WITH MY FELLOW ALUMS, I WAS WONDERING WHAT I MIGHT SAY ABOUT KAPPA SIGMA AND FRATERNITIES IN GENERAL; SINCE THIS IS QUITE AN OCCASION -- OUR FOUNDER'S DAY BANQUET THIS YEAR CELEBRATES KAPPA SIGMA'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY!

IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT MY OWN FEELINGS ARE PERHAPS THE BEST POSSIBLE INDICATOR OF WHAT FRATERNITY LIFE HAS MEANT TO ME.

I WASN'T PREPARING TO "ADDRESS" A GATHERING OF STRANGERS.

I WASN'T ATTENDING A "CONVENTION".

I WAS COMING TO JOIN A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND TO TALK TO MEN WITH WHOM I HAVE A STRONG PERSONAL BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD. I KNOW OF NO OTHER OCCASION IN WHICH I COULD ANTICIPATE FEELING SO MUCH AT HOME.

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I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL ALL AGREE THAT THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD IS THE ESSENCE OF KAPPA SIGMA. IT HAS FOLLOWED ME EVERYWHERE SINCE I LEFT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS. IT HAS LED TO FRIENDSHIPS WHICH I MIGHT NEVER HAVE EXPERIENCED, AND IT HAS ENABLED ME TO FEEL AT HOME IN MANY AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE. WHERE I FIND A KAPPA SIG -- OR FOR THAT MATTER, ANY FRATERNITY MAN -- I MEET A MAN WHOSE VALUES ARE SIMILAR TO MINE.

WHAT FRATERNITIES PROVIDE

THE BROTHERHOOD, THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH, AND THE KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE GAINED THROUGH ASSOCIATION WITH KAPPA SIGMA DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS BEGAN AT THE FRATERNITY HOUSE DURING OUR COLLEGE DAYS -- ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT CAPABLE THEN OF APPRECIATING THE FULL VALUE OF THAT EXPERIENCE.

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AS UNDERGRADUATES, WE WERE STIMULATED TO MORE FULLY APPRECIATE THE ADVANTAGES OF COLLEGE LIFE, WHICH, IN EFFECT, REPRESENTED AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. THROUGH KAPPA SIGMA, WE BECAME AWARE THAT A SOUND ACADEMIC PROGRAM IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ATTENDING COLLEGE. YET, AS BROTHERS IN COLLEGE, WE ALSO CAME TO RECOGNIZE THAT ONE'S FUTURE SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS DEPENDS EVEN MORE ON HIS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, HIS SELF-MOTIVATION, AND HIS ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS.

THUS, WHEN WE BECAME AWARE THAT SUCCESS IN OUR COLLEGE PURSUITS WAS NOT SOLELY BASED UPON SCHOLARSHIP -- BUT ALSO DEPENDED UPON OUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN FRATERNITY AND COLLEGE ACTIVITIES -- WE WERE, IN FACT, LEARNING THE LESSONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF WHAT IT TAKES IN LIFE TO BE BOTH INDIVIDUALLY CREATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY.

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TO SAY THAT FRATERNITIES ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A YOUNG MAN'S LEADERSHIP ABILITY AND SENSE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP IS A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT TO BESTOW UPON ANY INSTITUTION. DO FRATERNITIES DESERVE SUCH PRAISE?

I THINK THEY DO, AND I AM CERTAIN THAT THE ALUMNI IN THIS ROOM, REFLECTING ON THEIR COLLEGE YEARS, WILL AGREE.

THE ROLE OF FRATERNITIES TODAY

TODAY, IN THE FACE OF STUDENT UNREST, WHICH HAS FOR SOME TIME CHARACTERIZED CAMPUS ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT AMERICA, WE MUST REAPPRAISE THE FRATERNITY SYSTEM. WE MUST ASK OURSELVES: CAN THE COLLEGE MAN OF TODAY RECEIVE THE SAME EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE WHICH FRATERNITIES PROVIDED SO ABUNDANTLY FOR US YESTERDAY? IS THE FRATERNITY SYSTEM OUTMODED?

THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS EMPHATICALLY YES -----
TO THE LAST, ABSOLUTELY NOT!

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A STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

IF THE FRATERNITY CAN PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF CAMPUS DISORDERS, WHAT, THEN, MUST BE DONE? IS THERE ACTION OR A GENERAL POLICY WHICH FRATERNITIES CAN PURSUE THAT CAN REMEDY STUDENT COMPLAINT AND MISCONDUCT? AN EXAMINATION OF THESE QUESTIONS WAS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH PRESIDENT NIXON'S NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION. THIS PROGRAM HAS COME UP WITH WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR ACTION. IN ESSENCE, IT CALLS FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

I AGREE WITH YOU, THIS HAS A "NICE RING TO IT". BUT IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE. THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON INTER-RELATED COOPERATION AND ACTION AMONG THREE VITAL SECTORS: THE STUDENTS, THE COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY. A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT, PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE REQUIRED.

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BENEFITS TO BE GAINED THROUGH A STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HOWEVER, THE REWARDS OF A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WOULD BE MONUMENTAL. HERE IS A SAMPLING OF WHAT THIS UNDERTAKING COULD MEAN:

(1) A SOLUTION TO COLLEGE-STUDENT PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED BY THOSE WHO SHOULD RESOLVE THEM -- THE STUDENTS, COLLEGE AUTHORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY. THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR STATE POLICE OR FEDERAL RESTRICTIVE ACTION;

(2) HERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE GULF THEY FIND BETWEEN THE REAL AND THE IDEAL IN AMERICAN SOCIETY TODAY. THE ENORMOUS ENERGY AND TALENT OF AMERICA'S COLLEGE YOUTH COULD OFFER AN ANSWER TO MANY OF OUR COMMUNITIES' PRESSING, LONG-NEGLECTED NEEDS;

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(3) THROUGH PLANNING, ASSISTANCE, AND COORDINATION -- WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE AMONG THE THREE SECTORS CONCERNED -- THE PHENOMENON OF A "GENERATION GAP" WILL BE SEEN TO BE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN REAL. COMMUNICATION IS THE PRIME FACTOR HERE;

(4) A SOUND REASON FOR A SCHOOL TO SUPPORT STUDENT VOLUNTEERS IS THAT THE PROGRAMS WOULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN "TOWN AND GOWN". THESE PROGRAMS WOULD ENABLE THE SCHOOL TO BECOME IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. TOO MANY SCHOOLS STILL EXIST IN VIRTUAL ISOLATION FROM THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THUS, THERE IS SOME JUSTIFICATION TO THE STUDENT COMPLAINT THAT LIFE ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IS UNREPRESENTATIVE OF TODAY'S SOCIAL-ECONOMIC REALITIES;

(5) THEN A SCHOOL THAT HAS A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS BOUND TO IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC IMAGE;

(6) THE LAST REASON HAS DIRECT BEARING UPON KAPPA SIGMA. BECAUSE FRATERNITIES ALREADY POSSESS A HIGH DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THE VANGUARD OF A STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND COULD GIVE THE PROGRAM NATIONAL RESPECTABILITY.

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BENEFITS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

HOW WOULD A STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM BENEFIT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY? LET ME LIST SOME POSSIBILITIES:

(1) A NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM COULD BE INITIATED AND COULD RANGE FROM GENERAL BEAUTIFICATION TO MORE DIFFICULT TASKS, DEPENDING UPON COMMUNITY DESIRES;

(2) A BIG BROTHER-BIG SISTER PROGRAM WITH A LOCAL ORPHANAGE OR WITH THE LOCAL BIG BROTHER-SISTER ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE;

(3) COLLEGE STUDENTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL JUVENILE COURT, COULD WORK AS JUNIOR PROBATION OFFICERS, PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELING FOR JUVENILES ON PROBATION; AND

(4) A RED CROSS COLLEGE CORPS, ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTERS, CAN ENLIST VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS INSTRUCTORS IN COMMUNITY COURSES IN WATER SAFETY, FIRST AID, AND NURSING. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RED CROSS, VOLUNTEERS MIGHT WORK AS HOSPITAL AIDES, PHYSICAL OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AIDES IN LOCAL HOSPITALS, OR

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AS YOUTH ADVISORS TO RED CROSS CLUBS IN HIGH SCHOOLS, JUNIOR HIGHS
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS NEEDS
AND AREAS WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT COULD USE THE SERVICES
PROVIDED BY AN EFFECTIVE STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE SYSTEM.

WE MUST BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT AN EFFECTIVE VOLUNTARY ACTION
PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL PLANNING. INITIALLY IT WOULD REQUIRE
COORDINATED DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE COMMU-
NITY, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENT SECTORS.

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GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING

THERE IS A BRIGHT SIDE TO THE LABORIOUS TASK OF GETTING SUCH AS THIS PROJECT "OFF THE GROUND", SO TO SPEAK.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO OFFER EXPERIENCED ADVICE IN THE AREAS OF PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION THROUGH THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION AND VISTA.

INITIAL ACTION BY THE UNIVERSITIES

THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IS ALSO EQUIPPED TO UNDERTAKE THE INITIAL STEPS IN CREATING A STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM. THE SCHOOL CAN ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WITH A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR WHO WOULD ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS -- NOT DOMINATE THEM.

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SERVICE TO YOUTH -- THE ESSENCE OF KAPPA SIGMA

I HAVE DEVOTED MY REMARKS TONIGHT STRICTLY TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF VOLUNTARY ACTION, AS IT COULD SPECIFICALLY BE APPLIED TOWARD SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF STUDENT UNREST.

I HAVE DONE SO NOT ONLY BECAUSE I AM PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN AMERICA'S YOUTH BUT ALSO AS A KAPPA SIGMA.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THE FOUNDATION OF OUR GREAT FRATERNITY RESTS UPON THE SERVICE IT CAN RENDER THE YOUGH OF AMERICA -- PREPARING YOUNG MEN TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERSHIP -- PRIVATE AND PUBLIC.

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THE NIXON PHILOSOPHY

VOLUNTARY ACTION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT BASED UPON GOOD MANAGEMENT. THIS PHILOSOPHY IS DEDICATED TO A UNITED AMERICA AT PEACE AND THE RETURN OF POWER AND INITIATIVE TO THE STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY.

KAPPA SIGMA IS FOUNDED UPON THE CONCEPT AND VIRTUE OF VOLUNTARY ACTION. WE REALIZE THAT TODAY THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY HERE IN TOPEKA -- AS WELL AS IN WASHINGTON -- TO MAKE THE AMERICA OF TOMORROW A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.