

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

KANSAS OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
BROADVIEW HOTEL, WICHITA, KANSAS
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1971

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE IN WICHITA TO KEYNOTE THIS CONVENTION OF THE KANSAS OPTOMETRISTS. AS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS PUTS IT, "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH," SO I HAVE A HEALTHY APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPTOMETRIST IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

JUST AS POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS MUST KEEP AMERICA'S INNER VISION ALIVE, AMERICAN OPTOMETRISTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING OUR OUTER VISION SHARP AND CLEAR.

BEN FRANKLIN -- OPTOMETRIST

OCCASIONALLY IN OUR HISTORY, THE TWO FUNCTIONS HAVE OVERLAPPED. PERHAPS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THIS IS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, A GREAT POLITICAL THINKER AND LEADER WHO IS ALSO CREDITED BY SOME AUTHORITIES WITH INVENTING BI-FOCALS.

NOW THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT BEN FRANKLIN WAS NOT ABOVE BORROWING OTHER PEOPLES' IDEAS. MANY OF THE SAYINGS AND HOMILIES IN

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POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC WERE LIFTED FROM EARLIER ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN WRITERS. BUT EVEN IF BEN FRANKLIN DID PLAGIARIZE THE IDEA FOR BI-FOCALS, THAT TOO WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF VISION -- THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE A GOOD THING WHEN HE SAW IT.

AS A NATION, WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN BLESSED WITH THIS VISION, THIS ABILITY. IT HAS STAYED WITH US THROUGH THE CENTURIES, AND IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY WE ENJOY A SYSTEM OF FREE GOVERNMENT AND A STANDARD OF LIVING THAT ARE SECOND TO NONE AROUND THE GLOBE TODAY.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS WAY OF LIFE IS OUR HEALTH SYSTEM -- A SYSTEM THAT HAS COME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK FROM SOME VOCAL POLITICIANS. LIKE ALL SYSTEMS BUILT ON HUMAN NATURE, IT HAS ITS GAPS AND FLAWS. WHAT SYSTEM OR INSTITUTION DOES NOT?

ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEM

BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS IN AMERICA HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE GREAT PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. THE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP BY AMERICA'S HEALTH PROFESSIONS IS ONE OF THE PROUDEST CHAPTERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. THE 18,000 PRACTICING OPTOMETRISTS

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS CHAPTER. ON THE FRONT LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST BLINDNESS AND OTHER EYE AILMENTS, EACH OF YOU IS A VITAL PART OF OUR HEALTH SYSTEM -- AND YOU ARE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

NOW THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD THAT YOU NEED FROM ME IS A DETAILED LECTURE ON THE AMERICAN HEALTH PICTURE. YOU ARE A PART OF IT, AND YOU HAVE A FAR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF IT THAN I DO.

THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

BUT, I AM ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN AMERICA TODAY. IN AN ECONOMY WHICH HAS BEEN ASSAULTED BY INFLATION IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, HEALTH COSTS HAVE RISEN FAR FASTER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES. THE INCREASE WAS 12 PERCENT IN FISCAL 1970 ALONE AND OVER THE DECADE OF THE 1960'S, THE COST OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA DOUBLED.

DURING THIS TIME, THE QUALITY OF THE CARE WHICH WAS ACTUALLY DELIVERED TO PEOPLE REMAINED HIGH. BUT THE PROBLEM IS THAT FAR TOO MANY AMERICANS HAVE FOUND GOOD, EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE TO BE AN UNAFFORDABLE LUXURY. THIS SITUATION IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE IDEALS OF OUR

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WAY OF LIFE. FOR WE CANNOT ALLOW A SUBSTANTIAL SEGMENT OF OUR POPULATION TO SUFFER THE RAVAGES OF DISEASE, INJURY , OLD AGE AND BIRTH DEFECTS WHICH ARE WELL WITHIN OUR CAPACITY TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE -- SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE MONEY TO BUY THE CARE AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

THE PRESIDENT'S GOAL

AS PRESIDENT NIXON STATED: "AMERICA HAS LONG BEEN THE WEALTHIEST NATION IN THE WORLD. NOW IT IS TIME THAT WE BECOME THE HEALTHIEST NATION IN THE WORLD." THERE CAN BE NO DISPUTE OVER THIS GOAL. THERE CAN BE -- AND IS -- SOME DIFFERENCE OVER HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE IT.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES

A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD IN THE CONGRESS TO MAKE GOOD HEALTH CARE A STANDARD ELEMENT IN THE LIVES OF EVERYONE. THESE DIFFERENT PLANS WILL BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AND DISCUSSED IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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THE MOST PROMINENT OF THESE PROPOSALS FALL INTO TWO BROAD CATEGORIES. ONE CONSISTS OF THOSE PLANS THAT WOULD TAKE OUR PRESENT HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, BUILD ON ITS STRENGTHS AND ATTEMPT TO REFORM ITS WEAKNESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS.

IN THIS CATEGORY IS FOUND THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO ASSURE BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE POOR AND ALSO PROVIDE REAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL FAMILIES WHICH FACE THE OFTEN RUINOUS COSTS OF CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS.

ALSO IN THIS AREA IS THE MEDICREDIT PLAN WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR CLIFFORD HANSEN. IT WOULD PROVIDE TAX CREDITS FOR PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE PURCHASES AND FREE FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFITS FOR THE POOR.

THE HEALTHCARE PROGRAM, SPONSORED BY A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY, WOULD PROVIDE FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE INSURANCE AND FEDERAL AND STATE SUBSIDIZED BENEFITS FOR THE POOR.

I BELIEVE THESE TYPES OF APPROACHES ARE BEST SUITED TO A REALISTIC SOLUTION FOR OUR HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS. THEY ARE EVOLUTIONARY, AND THEY ARE FINANCIALLY WITHIN REASON. PERSONALLY, I FEEL THE ADMINISTRATION'S

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PLAN AND MEDICREDIT ARE THE MOST ATTRACTIVE. THEY DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS -- BUT MOSTLY IN EMPHASIS AND NOT IN THE FUNDAMENTALS. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE REALTIVE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF BOTH THESE PLANS FULLY EXPLORED AND DEBATED IN THE CONGRESS.

IN THE OTHER CATEGORY OF HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS, WE FIND NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, WHICH WOULD ESSENTIALLY SCRAP OUR PRESENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS ENTIRELY AND HAVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER THE FULL JOB. I FEEL THIS IS NEITHER A REASONABLE NOR A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH. IT WOULD SACRIFICE ALL THAT IS GOOD AND EFFECTIVE AND STRONG IN AMERICAN MEDICINE IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THAT WHICH IS UNDESIRABLE, INEFFECTIVE AND WEAK. AND IT WOULD BE TREMENDOUSLY EXPENSIVE -- TO THE TUNE OF \$77 BILLION IN FISCAL 1974.

A COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS

AS A MAJOR LINK IN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, THE OPTOMETRIC PROFESSION, I AM SURE, RECOGNIZES SOME OF ITS OWN BLEMISHES AND AREAS FOR PROGRESS. BUT I DOUBT SERIOUSLY THAT YOU FEEL THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE THINGS WOULD BE TO SCRAP WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS AND TURN YOUR JOB OVER TO WASHINGTON. WELL, I BELIEVE THIS FEELING HOLDS -- NOT ONLY WITH PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS AND OTHERS IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS -- BUT

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THROUGHOUT OUR NATION. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZE THE GOOD OF OUR TRADITIONS AND ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS. WE HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT TO ADD TO THAT GOOD. BUT WE HAVE REJECTED WHOLESAL UPHEAVALS WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE THE BEST ALONG WITH THE WORST.

I FEEL SURE THAT THE VISION AND COMMITMENT OF CONGRESS, CONCERNED CITIZENS EVERYWHERE, AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL ASSURE US OF RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES AND REAL PROGRESS IN MEETING OUR NATIONAL HEALTH CARE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE YEARS TO COME.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS WAY OF LIFE IS OUR HEALTH SYSTEM

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NATIONAL VISION

NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE OTHER KIND OF VISION I MENTIONED A FEW MOMENTS AGO -- THE INWARD VISION THAT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION AS EYESIGHT IS TO OUR CITIZENS.

WITH THE WAR IN VIETNAM WINDING DOWN, AMERICA'S ECONOMY IS FAST BECOMING THE MAJOR OBJECT OF IMMEDIATE PUBLIC CONCERN. THIS IS ONLY NATURAL, AND A HEALTHY PUBLIC INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING IN THIS FIELD SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, A DARKER SIDE TO THE ECONOMIC ISSUE. JUST AS SOME IRRESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS HAVE EXPLOITED THE HEALTH ISSUE, OTHERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO USE THE ECONOMIC ISSUE. AND, IN THEIR DESIRE TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE, SOME OF THEM HAVE AGGRAVATED OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE SHAKEN

PUBLIC MORALE -- PUBLIC CONFIDENCE -- IS A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT IN ANY HEALTHY ECONOMY. AND WHEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTIONS UNDERCUT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, THEY ARE ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO THE DAMAGE THAT RESULTS.

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THE CHORUS OF PROFESSIONAL PESSIMISTS WHO HAVE BELITTLED THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO STEM INFLATION AND BUILD A THRIVING PEACE-TIME ECONOMY HAVE NOT MADE THE PRESIDENT'S ROAD AN EASY ONE TO TRAVEL. AND THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED A SAD LACK OF NATIONAL VISION BY CHOOSING THIS POLITICAL LOW ROAD.

IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE THING FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY WHEN POLITICAL "OUTS" FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

NEGATIVE TACTICS FAIL

SEE ARTICLE ←
HOWEVER, THE MOUNTING EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THESE NEGATIVE EFFORTS HAVE FAILED. AN ALMOST COMIC EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS UNEARTHED THIS WEEK BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. IT INVOLVES A TOP ECONOMIC ADVISOR IN THE KENNEDY AND JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIONS WHO IS NOW A WALL STREET CONSULTANT AND OCCASIONAL COMMENTATOR ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY.

AND, AS THE JOURNAL DISCOVERED, THIS FORMER ECONOMIC WIZARD OF THE NEW FRONTIER AND THE GREAT SOCIETY DOESN'T JUST WEAR TWO HATS -- HE CARRIES TWO SETS OF OPINIONS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

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IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE JOURNAL SAYS, HE HAS BEEN "SHARPLY CRITICAL" OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. THIS, IN TURN, HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY THE PRESS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, AND CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY.

THE INTERESTING THING IS WHAT THIS SAME MAN HAS BEEN SAYING IN PRIVATE, TO HIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATES ON WALL STREET. ACCORDING TO THE JOURNAL, THIS PUBLIC CRITIC IS A PRIVATE ADMIRER. HE CONFIDES TO HIS CLIENTS THAT "THE NIXON TEAM HAS DONE A REMARKABLY GOOD JOB OF GETTING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL WITHOUT ALLOWING A SERIOUS RECESSION." THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK IS GOOD, HE TELLS HIS ASSOCIATES, AND HE ENCOURAGES THEM TO KEEP ON INVESTING IN THE STOCK MARKET.

NOW EACH OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE IS A SPECIALIST CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN EYE. I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DECIDE. IS THIS A CASE OF DOUBLE VISION, OR IS IT PLAIN OLD-FASHIONED POLITICAL HYPOCRISY?

I DO NOT PRETEND TO KNOW THE ANSWER, BUT I DO KNOW THAT PUBLIC BAD-MOUTHING OF THE ECONOMY BY SUCH MEN HURTS ALL AMERICANS -- NOT JUST

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MEMBERS OF THE PARTY THAT HAPPENS TO BE IN POWER. IT IS A BAD THING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND IT IS A BAD THING FOR THE QUALITY OF HONEST POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN THIS COUNTRY.

BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL VANISH OF ITS OWN ACCORD. ON THE CONTRARY, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT MORE AND MORE OF THIS KIND OF NEGATIVE ATTACK ON THE ECONOMY AS THE 1972 ELECTIONS DRAW NEARER.

FACTS REFLECT ECONOMIC RECOVERY

WHILE WE CANNOT STOP THE PROPHETS OF DOOM, WE CAN ARM OURSELVES WITH THE FACTS. AND THE FACTS ALL POINT TOWARD A GROWING TREND OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND EXPANSION.

LET ME GIVE YOU A FEW EXAMPLES. UNEMPLOYMENT, WHILE STILL A REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN, HAS DECREASED SINCE LAST DECEMBER. THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX FOR FEBRUARY HAS SURPASSED THE DECEMBER LEVEL, ANOTHER POSITIVE ECONOMIC INDICATOR.

MONEY SUPPLY LOOSENS

NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE MONEY SUPPLY WAS A REAL PROBLEM. BUT THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACTED WISELY AND WITH RESTRAINT TO EXPAND THE MONEY SUPPLY. DURING THE LAST HALF YEAR, CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION AND PRIVATE

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CHECKING ACCOUNTS HAS INCREASED AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 6 PERCENT. THIS IS SIX TIMES THE RATE OF INCREASE FOR A COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1969, TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE. AND RECENT INDICATORS SUCH AS PROJECTED CAR SALES INDICATE THAT THIS INCREASE IN THE MONEY SUPPLY WILL LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN CONSUMER SPENDING.

AT THE SAME TIME, INFLATION IS BEING SLOWED. THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX HAS BEEN SHRINKING. IF ALL THIS SOUNDS LIKE A HODGEPODGE OF NAMES AND NUMBERS, I APOLOGIZE. BUT THESE DRY FACTS AND FIGURES ADD UP TO AN ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORY THAT ALL AMERICANS OF GOOD WILL CAN TAKE PRIDE IN, AND I THINK IT IS GOOD NEWS WORTH PASSING ON.

FEAR IS THE ONLY REAL PROBLEM

NO DOUBT, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, WE WILL CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM THE VOICES OF DEFEATISM AND FEAR, CHANTING THE SAME OLD SLOGANS OF DESPAIR.

BUT, AS AN EARLIER PRESIDENT ONCE REMINDED AMERICANS, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF. AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY ARE UNAFRAID. THEY, TOO, ARE MEN AND WOMEN OF VISION. AND

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WHEN WE EXPRESS OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THIS GREAT NATION, WE ARE REALLY EXPRESSING OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE STRENGTH AND VISION OF ITS PEOPLE.

ANOTHER GREAT ISSUE

THERE IS ANOTHER GREAT NATIONAL ISSUE FACING US TODAY -- ONE THAT TRANSCENDS CONSIDERATION OF PARTY, AND ONE THAT CAN AFFECT OUR ENTIRE FUTURE AS A NATION. IT, TOO, REQUIRES CLEAR NATIONAL VISION. I REFER TO OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS.

I CANNOT REMEMBER ANY PERIOD IN MY LIFETIME WHEN AMERICA'S MILITARY HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO A MORE CONCERTED, INCESSANT CAMPAIGN OF ABUSE THAN DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. AND THE TORRENT OF ABUSE SEEMS TO MOUNT, NOT RECEDE.

NO ONE GROUP IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, AND EVEN SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, HAVE JOINED IN THE ATTACK.

MORE THAN AN ATTACK ON MILITARY

THE TRAGEDY IS THAT, IN THEIR SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS, THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT WHAT THEY ARE ATTACKING IS MORE THAN THE AMERICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. IT IS THE VERY ABILITY OF OUR NATION TO PROTECT ITSELF IN A TURBULENT, NUCLEAR AGE.

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LESSON OF PEARL HARBOR

LAST MONTH I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO AN AUDIENCE IN HAWAII. THERE, TOO, I DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND THE UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK BEING LAUNCHED AGAINST OUR ARMED FORCES TODAY. BECAUSE IT WAS HAWAII--AN OUTLYING LINK IN OUR CHAIN OF NATIONAL DEFENSES, AND THE SCENE, A GENERATION AGO, OF THE DAY THAT LIVED IN INFAMY--I THINK I REALIZED THE FULL URGENCY OF MY MESSAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE HORROR AND DISBELIEF OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR WILL NEVER FORGET IT. AFTER THE BITTER LESSON OF 1941, AMERICANS VOWED NEVER TO BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AGAIN.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME AMERICANS HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT VOW, AND THE TRAGIC LESSON WE LEARNED AT PEARL HARBOR--THE LESSON THAT OUR FUTURE AS A FREE PEOPLE DEPENDS ON OUR STRENGTH AS A NATION.

EISENHOWER RECOGNIZED DEFENSE NEEDS

AS GEORGE WASHINGTON WARNED HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN NEARLY TWO CENTURIES AGO, "TO BE PREPARED FOR WAR IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTUAL

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MEANS OF PREVENTING IT."

THIS LESSON WAS NOT LOST ON PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. DWIGHT EISENHOWER--WHO ENDED THE WAR IN KOREA HONORABLY, JUST AS RICHARD NIXON IS ENDING THE WAR IN VIETNAM HONORABLY--RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

AND WHEN HE LEFT OFFICE IN 1960, AMERICA BENEFITTED FROM HIS WISDOM. THE UNITED STATES HAD AN OVERWHELMING NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION--A SUPERIORITY THAT ENABLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY TO FACE DOWN THE RUSSIANS DURING THE CUBAN CRISES A FEW YEARS LATER.

AS A RESULT, RUSSIAN MISSILES WERE PEACEFULLY REMOVED FROM CUBA, AND A POTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SURVIVAL WAS ELIMINATED.

BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE DISARMERS AND THE FOES OF NATIONAL SECURITY HAVE THEIR WAY? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE ALLOW THEM TO STRIP OUR ALREADY WEAKENED DEFENSES? WHAT WILL HAPPEN THE NEXT TIME WE MUST FACE UP TO ALIEN AGGRESSION IF THE NUCLEAR CARDS ARE STACKED AGAINST US?

NEED FOR A STRONG ECONOMICAL DEFENSE

IN THIS AGE OF UNCERTAINTY AND INTERNATIONAL UPHEAVAL, THERE IS

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A CRITICAL NEED FOR OUR NATION TO LOOK TO ITS OWN DEFENSES, AND TO MAINTAIN THE KIND OF REALISTIC DETERRENCE ADVOCATED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD.

BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT UNCLE SAM SHOULD GIVE A BLANK CHECK TO THE PENTAGON. AS THE RECORD SHOWS, PRESIDENT NIXON IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO TRIM THE NECESSARY FAT FROM OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM. THE FACT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAVED \$8 BILLION IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

AS FOR THE TALK OF RE-ARRANGING PRIORITIES, JUST LOOK AT THE FACTS, AND YOU CAN SEE THAT THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. WHEREAS 66 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET WAS SPENT ON DEFENSE IN 1952, THE PERCENTAGE HAS BEEN CUT NEARLY IN HALF, TO 34.6 PERCENT FOR FISCAL 1971. SINCE 1952, DEFENSE SPENDING HAS FALLEN FROM 13.6 TO 7.2 PERCENT OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT. AND, FINALLY, WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON SENT HIS BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1971 TO THE CONGRESS, SPENDING ON HUMAN RESOURCES SUCH AS HEALTH AND EDUCATION OUTPACED DEFENSE SPENDING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO DECADES.

THERE CAN BE NO DENYING THE DEDICATION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION-- AND ALL REASONABLE MEN--TO AN ECONOMICAL NATIONAL DEFENSE. BUT TO ECONOMIZE IS NOT THE SAME THING AS TO DESTROY, ANY MORE THAN DIETING IS THE SAME THING AS STARVING TO DEATH.

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THE WARNING OF HISTORY

HISTORY IS LITTERED WITH TRAGIC EXAMPLES OF GREAT AND LITTLE NATIONS THAT GREW COMPLACENT AND SELF-SATISFIED. IT IS LITTERED WITH CIVILIZATIONS THAT FLOWERED AND THEN LOST THE WILL AND THE STRENGTH NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL.

AS AMERICANS, WE ARE CITIZENS OF PERHAPS THE GREATEST NATION TO EMERGE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF RECORDED HISTORY. BESIDES OUR COUNTRY'S IMMENSE POWER AND WEALTH, IT HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A SET OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS UNRIVALED IN THE ANNALS OF MANKIND. AND YET, IF THE VOICES OF IRRESPONSIBILITY TRIUMPH, AND AMERICA IS STRIPPED OF HER DEFENSES, FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY LOOK BACK ON US AS JUST ONE MORE EXTINCT CIVILIZATION THAT GREW RIPE AND THEN GREW ROTTEN--- THAT PERISHED THROUGH ITS OWN WEAKNESS AND APATHY.

THAT IS A TRAGIC EPITAPH THAT NEVER SHOULD AND NEVER SHALL BE WRITTEN AS LONG AS DECENT, REASONABLE AMERICANS OF ALL PARTIES AND PERSUASIONS STAND UNITED BEHIND A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

YES, "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH." AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PRESERVING OUR NATIONAL DEFENSES, WE ARE REALLY TALKING

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ABOUT THE VISION AND DETERMINATION THAT IS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD
THE LIVES OF LITERALLY MILLIONS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
BELONGING TO THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

I HOPE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPRESS THE URGENCY OF THIS
MESSAGE TO YOU THIS MORNING. AND I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU, AS
RESPECTED MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES, WILL CARRY IT BACK TO
YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

THE ISSUE IS NOTHING LESS THAN NATIONAL SURVIVAL, AND YOU
CAN PLAY A PART IN DECIDING IT IN OUR FAVOR.

EACH OF YOU HAS DEDICATED A LIFETIME TO PRESERVING AND IMPROVING
THE PHYSICAL VISION OF THIS NATION. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO
EXTEND THAT VISION TO THE VITAL QUESTION OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL.