

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

BANKERS' LUNCHEON
NEW YORK CITY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1971

-- RECORD ECONOMIC GROWTH --

THE NATIONAL ECONOMY HAS EXPANDED RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1971. OUR TOTAL OUTPUT OF GOODS AND SERVICES -- THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT -- INCREASED BY \$28.5 BILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THIS IS THE LARGEST SINGLE INCREASE EVER. IT REPRESENTS A BOOST IN DOLLAR VALUE OF 12 PERCENT, THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE G.N.P. SINCE 1958.

REAL G.N.P. (THE GNP STATED IN 1958 DOLLARS) ALSO INCREASED IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, AT A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE OF 6.4 PERCENT, THE HIGHEST SINCE 1968.

OTHER POSITIVE INDICATORS

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER ENCOURAGING INDICATORS THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE BEGINNING TO PAY OFF:

(1) INTEREST RATES HAVE COME DOWN; THE PRIME RATE HAS DROPPED 3-1/4 POINTS, FROM 8-1/2 PERCENT TO 5-1/4 PERCENT.

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(2) THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD HAS APPROVED THE LOWERING OF THE DISCOUNT RATE FROM 6 PERCENT TO 4-3/4 PERCENT.

(3) HOUSING STARTS HAVE SURGED FROM A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE OF 1.2 MILLION IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1970 TO 1.7 MILLION IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1971, AND ISSUES OF BUILDING PERMITS INDICATE CONTINUED STRENGTH.

(4) IN THE STOCK MARKET, STRONG PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN THE RULE. THE DOW-JONES INDUSTRIALS AVERAGE CLOSED AT 938 ON APRIL 15, UP FROM A LOW OF 631 ON MAY 26, 1970 ----- AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 49 PERCENT IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

(5) PERSONAL INCOME CONTINUES TO RISE, UP \$87 BILLION FROM 1969.

(6) A BREAKTHROUGH IN RELIEF FOR THE AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE IS THE NEW STABILITY BEING DEMONSTRATED IN FOOD PRICES. IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, OF 1969, FOOD PRICES WERE RISING AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 8.3 PERCENT. IN

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THE LAST HALF OF 1970, THE RATE HAD BEEN SLASHED TO 1 PERCENT A YEAR. THIS IS AN ENORMOUS STRIDE IN HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF LIVING FOR EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY LOWER INCOME FAMILIES.

ALL OF THESE STATISTICS REFLECT A NEW PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. THAT CONFIDENCE IS ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE STEADY BARRAGE OF NEGATIVE ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE ECONOMY BY THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL FOES. THE PROPHETS OF ECONOMIC DOOM AND GLOOM TRIED TO TALK THE COUNTRY INTO AN ECONOMIC TAILSPIN -- BUT THEY HAVE FAILED.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT AND UNAFRAID, AND THE LATEST FIGURES ON THE ECONOMY REFLECT THIS.

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PROGRESS IN VIETNAM

THE PRESIDENT'S SYSTEMATIC VIETNAMIZATION OF THE WAR HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL. EVERY DEADLINE FOR AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS THAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED HAS EITHER BEEN MET OR SURPASSED.

WHEN RICHARD NIXON TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE IN 1969, THERE WAS NO END IN SIGHT TO THE WAR IN INDOCHINA. PAST ADMINISTRATIONS HAD ESCALATED OUR INVOLVEMENT TO WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

NOW ALL THAT HAS CHANGED. FROM A HIGH POINT OF OVER HALF-A-MILLION AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN, PRESIDENT NIXON HAS REDUCED OUR PRESENCE -- THROUGH SYSTEMATIC, ORDERLY WITHDRAWALS -- TO 284,000 MEN.

AND, AS THE PRESIDENT WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE IN HIS LATEST TELEVISION MESSAGE ON VIETNAM, THAT FIGURE WILL BE DOWN BY ANOTHER 100,000 BEFORE THE YEAR IS OVER.

BY THIS DECEMBER, THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN IN VIETNAM WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO 184,000.

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AND I HAVE A PREDICTION TO MAKE -- A PREDICTION BASED ON MY PERSONAL ESTIMATE, NOT SOME SPECIAL INSIDE INFORMATION -- BUT ONE THAT I THINK IS GOING TO BE PROVEN TRUE.

I PREDICT THAT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, AMERICAN CASUALTIES IN VIETNAM WILL BE AT OR NEAR THE ZERO POINT.

PRESIDENT NIXON DID NOT START THE WAR IN VIETNAM, BUT THE FACTS AND THE FIGURES PROVE THAT HE IS ENDING IT FOR OUR FIGHTING FORCES ---- AND IS ENDING IT WITH HONOR.