

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE BEFORE THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF GENERAL CONTRACTORS, WICHITA, KANSAS, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1972 12:00 NOON

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING AT THIS AGC REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND TO DISCUSS SOME OF MY VIEWS ON THE NATIONAL SCENE.

AND IF I HAD TO CHARACTERIZE THOSE VIEWS IN ONE WORD -- NOT JUST IN NARROW TERMS OF ELECTION YEAR POLITICS, BUT WITH REGARD TO THE WIDE RANGE OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE EMBRACED BY THAT TERM 'POLITICS' IN ITS BEST AND BROADEST SENSE -- THAT ONE WORD WOULD BE OPTIMISM.

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND THE SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO A PEACE-TIME ECONOMY.

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM -- BECAUSE OF THAT -- ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S RE-ELECTION.

POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE

TO HEAR SOME OF THE MEDIA TELL IT, TO HEAR SOME OF THE DEMOCRATS TELL IT, TO HEAR GEORGE MEANY, OR GEORGE MCGOVERN OR HUBERT HUMPHREY OR TED KENNEDY TELL IT -- THERE ISN'T MUCH CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM THESE DAYS.

AND FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, OF COURSE, THEY ARE RIGHT.

BUT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF WHAT IS GOOD FOR AMERICA AND ITS PEOPLE AND OF WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE WORLD AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE -- FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PROGRESS -- THERE IS GOOD REASON TO HAVE HOPE.

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THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF A PRESIDENT WHO HAS LOOKED DOWN THE LONG ROAD TOWARD WHAT IS GOOD FOR THIS COUNTRY -- BY A PRESIDENT WHO HAS COMPILED A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AND OF PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS.

IN MORE NARROWLY POLITICAL TERMS, IN TERMS OF PARTISAN POLITICS, THE ELECTORATE HAS BEEN OFFERED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES TO WHAT THEY HAVE NOW.

THERE HAS BEEN THE POLITICS OF TRUST AND A RERUN OF THE POLITICS OF JOY.

THERE IS THE NEW POLITICS AND THE OLD POLITICS AND WHAT SOME REFER TO AS THE POLITICS OF PEACE.

THERE IS RADICAL POLITICS AND CONVENTIONAL POLITICS, REGIONAL POLITICS AND THE SPECIAL INTEREST POLITICS OF YOUTH AND OF LABOR.

SO FAR, HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES SINGULARLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CLIMBING ABOARD ANY OF THESE POLITICAL "BLANDWAGONS" AND THE REASON, SO FAR AS I CAN SEE, IS A SIMPLE ONE.

IN 1968, THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY MADE THEIR CHOICE. AND THEY ARE GOING TO STICK BY THAT CHOICE IN NOVEMBER OF 1972 BECAUSE WHAT THEY HAVE NOW, AS A RESULT OF THAT CHOICE, IS THE POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE.

PERFORMANCE COUNTS

AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS ON THE BASIS OF PERFORMANCE THAT THE ELECTORATE IS GOING TO CHOOSE THIS FALL.

AND IT IS ON THAT BASIS -- ON THE RECORD OF PERFORMANCE OF THIS PRESIDENT -- AND ON MY FAITH IN THE AMERICAN VOTER WHO KNOWS A GOOD THING -- WHO KNOWS LEADERSHIP -- WHEN HE SEES IT, THAT I BASE MY CONFIDENCE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

I NOTE, TOO, IN THE BUSINESS PRESS AND AMONG ECONOMISTS, A RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED BUSINESS EXPANSION. AS BUSINESS WEEK PUT IT A WHILE BACK, "IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE THE BOOM IS HERE."

AND AS NO LESS A DISINTERESTED AND NON-PARTISAN OBSERVER THAN ARTHUR OKUN, CHAIRMAN OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, PUT IT RECENTLY, "THE RECOVERY IS NO LONGER A FORECAST, IT IS A FACT."

NOW ARTHUR OKUN AND I MAY HAVE OUR DISAGREEMENTS ON WHAT IT IS EXACTLY THAT WE ARE RECOVERING FROM, BUT THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT WITH HIS CURRENT EVALUATION. AFTER A LONG FIGHT WITH THE DEMOCRATS' LEGACY OF INFLATION AND ILLUSORY WAR-TIME PROSPERITY, THE POLICIES OF RICHARD NIXON HAVE BROUGHT US TO A POINT WHERE THE TALK OF AN ECONOMIC BOOM CANNOT BE DENIED EXCEPT PERHAPS BY A FEW OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES.

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THEY HAD EXPECTED THE ECONOMY TO BE AN ISSUE. HAD COUNTED ON IT, IN FACT. AND THE REALITY OF RECOVERY HASN'T YET SUNK INTO THEM OR INTO THEIR CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS SO THEY STILL SPEAK AS IF THE ECONOMY WERE GOING TO BE A BIG ISSUE IN THEIR FAVOR.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS UP

THEY TALK THAT WAY IN SPITE OF THE RECORD PACE OF HOUSING STARTS.

IN SPITE OF A SEVENTEEN MONTH, UNINTERRUPTED TREND OF INCREASE IN THE LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS.

IN SPITE OF THE RISE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT TO RECORD LEVELS.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT INFLATION HAS LEVELED OFF, THAT RETAIL SALES ARE RISING, THAT EQUIPMENT ORDERS, MACHINE TOOL ORDERS, PERSONAL INCOME AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE ARE UP.

STILL WE ARE TOLD, THE POCKETBOOK ISSUES ARE GOING TO BE THE BIG ONES IN THIS CAMPAIGN, AND THE DEMOCRATS TELL US THAT IT IS GOING TO BE THEIR ISSUE.

SO FAR AS I CAN SEE, THEY ARE ABLE TO HOLD ON TO THIS FICTION FOR ONLY TWO REASONS, NEITHER IS VALID. NEITHER IS CONVINCING. AND NEITHER IS GOING TO PROVE SUFFICIENT TO THE ELECTORATE, I AM SURE.

FIRST, THEY SPEAK OF THE HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. AND THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT ON THE FACTS HERE. 5.9 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT IS TOO HIGH. ALL THE EXPLANATIONS IN THE WORLD -- AND THERE ARE MANY QUITE VALID AND CONVINCING ONES -- CAN'T CHANGE THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL AT 5.9 PERCENT.

BUT NEITHER CAN THE POSTURINGS AND PROMISES OF THE DEMOCRATS CHANGE THAT FACT.

MOST EXPERTS AGREE

ONLY ONE THING CAN AND WILL CHANGE THAT FACT. AND THAT IS A CONTINUATION OF RICHARD NIXON'S POLICIES.

I AM NO ECONOMIST. BUT I CAN READ WHAT THE EXPERTS HAVE TO SAY. AND THEY ALMOST ALL AGREE THAT THE FORECAST OF THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT LOWERED UNEMPLOYMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR IS CORRECT. THEY ALMOST ALL AGREE THAT WHEN THE RISE IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT RUNS AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF WELL OVER TWO MILLION, THEN IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME -- AND A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME -- UNTIL THE RISING EMPLOYMENT STARTS TO BRING THAT UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE DOWN.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND HERE, THAT THE ECONOMY IS NOT AN ISOLATED FACTOR. IT RESPONDS TO ACTIONS TAKEN IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL AS IN FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE POLICY.

WHEN THIS COUNTRY WOUND DOWN THE WAR IN VIETNAM AND DECREASED DEFENSE SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, THAT HAD PROFOUND EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY AND ON THE ILLUSORY SENSE OF PROSPERITY THAT THE WAR-TIME ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION HAD GENERATED.

NOT THE LEAST OF THESE EFFECTS WAS THE NECESSITY FOR ELIMINATING SOME TWO MILLION WAR-TIME JOBS IN DEFENSE AND DEFENSE-RELATED WORK. IT IS A FACT TOO OFTEN IGNORED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FOUR PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT THAT WE DEFINE AS FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THE 5.9 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT THAT WE PRESENTLY EXPERIENCE, IS ALMOST ENTIRELY EXPLAINED BY THOSE TWO MILLION JOBS THAT HAVE BEEN LOST.

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THAT DIFFERENCE IS GONG TO BE MADE UP IN THE COMING MONTHS. WHEN IT IS, WHEN THOSE FORMERLY DEFENSE ORIENTED JOBS ARE REPLACED WITH PEACE-TIME EMPLOYMENT, WE WILL HAVE FOUND OURSELVES A LONG WAY TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S GOAL OF CONVERSION FROM A WAR-TIME TO A PEACE-TIME ECONOMY -- A LONG WAY TOWARD FULL EMPLOYMENT IN PEACE-TIME.

NEW POPULISM JUST OLD EXPEDIENCY

BUT I SPOKE OF TWO FALLACIES THE DEMOCRATS HAVE ADOPTED AS ECONOMIC CAMPAIGN ISSUES. THE SECOND IS THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY HAVE ~~HIT~~ THE NATION'S PULSE WITH THEIR NEW POPULIST TALK OF TAX LOOPHOLES AND TAX REFORM.

I AM NOT ARGUING WITH THEIR ASSERTION THAT TAX REFORM MIGHT BE IN ORDER. NOR DO I TAKE ISSUE WITH THE ASSESSMENT THAT THE PEOPLE WANT IT -- AND WANT IT BADLY. I TAKE ISSUE ONLY WITH THE DEMOCRAT BELIEF THAT THEIR NEO-POPULISM HAS CAUGHT HOLD OF THE NATION'S PULSE ON THE ISSUE.

IT COMES BACK TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POLITICS OF PROMISE AND THE POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE. THIS NEW POPULISM OF THE DEMOCRATS HAS GOTTEN THEM TALKING, ALL OF A SUDDEN, IN THE CAMPAIGN, ABOUT THINGS THEY NEVER HEARD OF IN THE SENATE OR AT LEAST THEY NEVER ACTED ON THEM IN THE SENATE. THEY NEVER INTRODUCED TAX REFORM MEASURES IN THE SENATE.

THEY HAVE PASSED A COUPLE OF TAX REFORM BILLS, IT IS TRUE, BUT THOSE WERE ADMINISTRATION TAX REFORM BILLS.

THIS NEW POPULISM OF THEIRS, HAS THEM TALKING ABOUT THE LITTLE MAN OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, BUT THEY STILL VOTE FOR BIG GOVERNMENT AND BIG GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS BACK IN THE SENATE.

THIS NEW POPULISM, WHEN YOU BOIL IT ALL DOWN TO ITS ESSENTIALS, IS STILL OLD DEMOCRAT POLITICS. IT IS STILL OLD DEMOCRAT POLICIES. IT IS STILL OLD DEMOCRAT PROMISES WITHOUT ANY REALISTIC HOPE OF FULFILLMENT.

THE NEW POPULISM, WHEN YOU BOIL IT ALL DOWN, IS STILL NOTHING BUT THE OLD POLITICAL VOTE-GETTING EXPEDIENCY.

NIXON'S WAR DECISION COURAGEOUS, PRINCIPLED

AND GIVEN THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS, I THINK WE CAN'T IGNORE THE BEST, MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THE CONTRASTING POLITICS OF PRINCIPLE. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN ACTION IN VIETNAM, ACTION ANNOUNCED A WEEK AGO, WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NO LITTLE CONTROVERSY, IF NOT AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AT LEAST AMONG THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE THEIR LEADER -- AMONG THOSE WHO ARE NOW RUNNING FOR THE DEMOCRAT PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

HIS DECISION WAS NOT MADE EASILY. IT WAS A CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, COURAGEOUS ACTION AND IT GOES TO THE HEART OF THIS ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE. AND WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IT COMES DOWN SQUARELY -- AND RESPONSIBLY -- ON THE SIDE OF PEACE.

IT IS ACTION THAT DESERVES OUR SUPPORT AND THE SUPPORT OF ALL AMERICANS WITHOUT REGARD TO PARTISAN POLITICS AND WITHOUT REGARD TO WHATEVER MAY HAPPEN IN NOVEMBER -- BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY HOW THE PRESIDENT MADE HIS DECISION-- WITHOUT REGARD TO WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN NOVEMBER.

DECISION NOT MADE EASILY

IT WAS A HARD DECISION MOTIVATED BY A SERIOUS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO STILL REMAIN IN VIETNAM.

IT WAS A COURAGEOUS DECISION MOTIVATED BY A CONTINUING REGARD FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR ALLY.

IT WAS AN END-THE-WAR DECISION, MOTIVATED BY A SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE AND A CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WHOM THE ENEMY HAS KEPT FOR SO LONG AND WHOM THEY HAVE SO OFTEN AND SO STUBBORNLY -- AND INHUMANLY -- EVEN REFUSED TO IDENTIFY.

CRITICS QUICK TO JUDGE

WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS HAVE FAILED TO REALIZE IN ALL OF THIS, APPARENTLY, IS THE IMPACT DOMESTIC COMMENT CAN HAVE ON THE VERY OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES. CERTAINLY THEY SHOULD BE FREELY AND FRANKLY DISCUSSED, BY THE MEDIA AND BY THE POLITICIANS. NO ONE ARGUES WITH THEIR RIGHT TO DISAGREE. BUT THAT DISAGREEMENT SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE. IT SHOULD BE WELL CONSIDERED. IT SHOULD BE GIVEN AT LEAST AS MUCH CAREFUL THOUGHT AND DELIBERATE CONSIDERATION AS WAS THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

ON WEDNESDAY, THE NEW YORK TIMES RAN A FRONT PAGE STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE, "PRESIDENT TOOK NEARLY A WEEK TO REACH VIETNAM DECISION." THE THRUST OF THAT STORY, QUITE CORRECTLY, WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY HIS DECISION TO MINE THE HARBORS OF NORTH VIETNAM.

OF COURSE HE DIDN'T AND IT WAS NOT NEWS TO ME. BUT STILL THE TIMES MADE IT FRONT-PAGE NEWS.

INSIDE THE SAME EDITION, HOWEVER, THE TIMES EDITORIALIZED AS IF THEY HAD NOT EVEN READ THE STORY. LITTLE MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, THE TIMES HIT THE STREETS CALLING THE ACTION "RASH AND PRECIPITATE," RAISING THE SPECTRE OF GREAT POWER CONFRONTATIONS EVEN BEFORE THE GREAT POWERS HAD.

IT TOOK THE TIMES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO REACT. IT TOOK THE NETWORK COMMENTATORS SOMEWHAT LESS TIME. IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, IN FACT, MANY OF THEM HAD DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DASHED HOPES FOR PEACE, THE CHANCES FOR A RUSSIAN SUMMIT AND THE HOPES OF THE WORLD.

NOT ONLY HAD THEY MADE THAT DECISION, BUT OF COURSE, THEY GLIBLY COMMUNICATED IT TO THE NATION. TEN MINUTES AFTER THE PRESIDENT SPOKE -- AND LONG BEFORE WE HAD EVEN THE INKLING OF A SOVIET RESPONSE -- WE WERE TOLD THAT THE SUMMIT MUST BE DOOMED -- THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD TO CANCEL THE SUMMIT.

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LATER IN THE WEEK, OF COURSE, THE STORY WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. THE NETWORK NEWS REPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S AMICABLE -- SOME EVEN USED THE WORD JOVIAL -- MEETING WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. THEY REPORTED THAT THE CHANCES THAT THE RUSSIAN SUMMIT WOULD STILL BE HELD LOOKED GOOD AND THAT WHAT THEY TERMED "SPECULATION" TO THE CONTRARY WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY EVENTS.

WHAT THEY NEGLECTED TO REPORT LATER ON WAS THAT ALL THE "SPECULATION" TO THE CONTRARY WAS THEIR OWN. THAT IT WAS THE MEDIA WHICH RAISED THE ISSUE AND THE MEDIA WHICH EVENTS HAD PROVEN WRONG.

MAN BITES DOG IS SUPPOSED TO BE NEWS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MISTAKES ARE ALSO NEWS, AND THE MEDIA IS QUICK TO COMMENT.

BUT WHEN THE MEDIA ITSELF GUESSES WRONG, WE HEAR NOTHING.

THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID LOFTILY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS GONE AGAINST THE "WILL AND CONSCIENCE OF A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." THE NETWORK COMMENTATORS EXPECTED AN ALMOST IMMEDIATE SOVIET CANCELLATION OF THE SUMMIT.

BUT SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE PUBLIC SAY THEY SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT AND THE RUSSIANS MET AMICABLY WITH HIM AND WE HEAR NOTHING ABOUT THE MEDIA'S MISTAKES.

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THE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FOR SO LONG URGING THIS COUNTRY TO DO WHAT THEY CALL THE HONORABLE THING -- TO ADMIT WHAT IS CALLED ITS TRAGIC MISTAKE IN VIETNAM -- WILL NOT AND PERHAPS CANNOT ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES THERE.

DECISIONS ON WAR AND PEACE -- AND THE LIVES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND OF AMERICANS PRISONERS OF WAR -- ARE NOT THE STUFF OF WHICH CAMPAIGN SPEECHES OUGHT TO BE FASHIONED.

BUT LIKE THE MEDIA, IT TOOK MANY OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES ONLY A SHORT WHILE -- ONLY A FEW HOURS -- TO PUT THEMSELVES ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ISSUE. EACH OF THEM RACED THE OTHER TO BE THE FIRST TO COMMENT NEGATIVELY ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

AND IN THE PROCESS, THEY BEAT EVEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, REJECTING THE PRESIDENT'S PACKAGE EVEN BEFORE THE ENEMY HAD COMMENTED.

DEMOS MISJUDGE WAR -- MISJUDGE PEOPLE

BUT THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THE WAR AND WRONG ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY ON THE WAR FOR THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS. AND NOW THEY HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES WRONG ABOUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

MOST OF THE PEOPLE -- THREE OUT OF FOUR IN THE POLLS -- HAVE SHOWN THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ABANDON THEIR PRESIDENT WHEN HE MOST NEEDS THEIR SUPPORT. THEY HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE DEMOCRATS WHOSE DEFEATIST POLITICAL POSTURINGS ON THE WAR HAVE FOR TOO LONG BEEN PASSED OFF AS SELFLESS MORAL LEADERSHIP.

THE DEMOCRATS ARE AFTER VOTES, AFTER ALL, AND THE WAR BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE AN ISSUE TO THEM AGAIN.

THEY WANT US TO FORGET, PRESUMABLY, THAT ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, THIS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT OFFERED THE ENEMY THE MOST GENEROUS TERMS FOR PEACE CONCEIVABLE -- SHORT OF SURRENDER. THAT IS.

ONE DEMOCRAT SENATOR WHO IS NOT RUNNING FOR NOMINATION -- AND ONE WHOSE ANTI-WAR SENTIMENTS ARE WELL-KNOWN -- SENATOR FRANK CHURCH, HAS PRAISED THE PEACE TERMS THE PRESIDENT OFFERED. ACCORDING TO HIM, THIS IS WHAT MANY WAR CRITICS HAVE WANTED FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.

WELL, IF THEY WANTED IT SO BADLY, WHY DON'T THEY PRAISE THE PRESIDENT FOR IT? WHY DON'T THEY AT LEAST SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT FOR IT? WHY DON'T THEY, AT MINIMUM, SAY THAT THE PEACE TERMS OFFERED BY THE PRESIDENT ARE REASONABLE AND PUBLICALLY CALL UPON HANOI TO ACCEPT THEM AS SUCH?

INSTEAD OF CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT FOR MINING HAIPHONG HARBOR, WHY DON'T THEY CRITICIZE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR UNDERMINING THE PEACE OF THE WORLD?

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE --IF NOT SOME OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES --ARE SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT IN THESE CHALLENGING DAYS. AND THAT SUPPORT MUST CONTINUE IF HIS COURAGEOUS INITIATIVES IN VIETNAM ARE FULLY TO SUCCEED. THEY NEED THE BACKING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AND I THINK THAT SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE. I THINK IT WILL GROW. I THINK IT WILL SPREAD AS EVEN MORE PEOPLE COME TO REALIZE THAT RICHARD NIXON IS THE KIND OF PRESIDENT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IN THE 1970's. AND THAT HIS IS THE KIND OF PRINCIPLED, INTELLIGENT LEADERSHIP WE MUST HAVE.

LARGE VISION

AS ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS SAID IN 1970, UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION, "A LARGE VISION OF AMERICA HAS BEEN PUT FORTH." IT IS RICHARD NIXON'S VISION OF AMERICA. AND I BELIEVE THAT DURING THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS, THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAVE COME TO ACCEPT THAT VISION AS THEIR OWN. THEY HAVE COME TO REJECT, WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE "NARROW VISION OF THOSE WHO WOULD TELL US THAT...ALL THE SWEAT AND TOIL AND SACRIFICE THAT HAS GONE INTO THE BUILDING OF AMERICA WAS FOR NAUGHT BECAUSE THE BUILDING IS NOT YET DONE."

AND WITH HIM, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY TO SET ABOUT THE TASK OF FINISHING THE BUILDING. AFTER A DECADE OF SELF DOUBT AND DISORIENTATION, THERE ARE STRONG SIGNS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE REGAINED A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AND IN WHAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH.

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THIS IS SO, CERTAINLY, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. BUT IT IS DUE, AS WELL, TO THE NATURE OF THE LEADERSHIP THEY ENJOY.

IT IS THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT DESERVES SUPPORT.

IT IS THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT MERITS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN NOVEMBER AND DESERVES ANOTHER FOUR YEARS TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN SO WELL BEGUN IN THE LAST THREE AND A HALF.

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