

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
ANNUAL BADEN POWELL DINNER
WHEATLAND DISTRICT OF CORONADA AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1974

IT IS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO BE HERE TONIGHT AT THIS
BADEN POWELL DINNER OF THE WHEATLAND BOY SCOUT DISTRICT, BECAUSE OF
COURSE, IT BRINGS ME TO RUSSELL, WHICH IS MY HOME, AND ALSO BECAUSE,
SOME YEARS AGO, I WAS A CUB SCOUT OF THIS SAME DISTRICT, AND SO
KNOW FIRST HAND, HOW WORTHWHILE THE PROGRAM IS AND HOW MUCH SCOUTING
HAS TO OFFER.

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INQUIRIES FROM SCOUTS

PERIODICALLY, LETTERS COME INTO MY OFFICE FROM SCOUTS, SOME ENCOURAGED TO WRITE BY SCOUTING PROGRAMS, OTHERS WRITING JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE INTERESTED IN THE IMPORTANT PUBLIC ISSUES OF THE DAY.

I AM GLAD TO GET THESE LETTERS AND GLAD TO SEE THIS EVIDENCE OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF YOUNG MEN LIKE YOURSELVES.

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CITIZEN INTEREST STILL STRONG

I AM ESPECIALLY HAPPY BECAUSE SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON AND MY FRIENDS IN POLITICAL LIFE KEEP TELLING ME THAT YOUNG PEOPLE, IN FACT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ARE TURNED OFF BY POLITICS, DISILLUSIONED WITH GOVERNMENT AND GENERALLY DISINTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT EITHER ONE.

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THAT HAS NEVER BEEN MY VIEW AND IT ISN'T NOW. ONE THING THAT SEEMS TO DISTINGUISH THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE AND SETS US APART AS A NATION IS OUR GENERAL FEELING THAT WE ARE INVOLVED AND THAT OUR INTEREST IN PUBLIC MATTERS IS IMPORTANT. AS A PEOPLE, WE HAVE A WILLINGNESS TO PULL TOGETHER, EVEN IN ADVERSITY, AND SEE OUR WAY THROUGH TO THE SOLUTION OF WHATEVER PROBLEMS WE FACE.

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VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

IN THIS CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS, FOR EXAMPLE, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WORKING, OF COURSE, AND A WHOLE NEW AGENCY HAS BEEN SET UP TO DEAL WITH IT. BUT TRULY THE CONTROLLING FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO COPE WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS SO FAR, HAS BEEN THE VOLUNTARY, UNCOERCED AND FOR THE MOST PART, UNCOMPLAINING COOPERATION OF AMERICANS IN THE CONSERVATION EFFORT.

AS AN EXAMPLE, THIS IS A NATION WHERE, FOR YEARS, FOR DECADES, IN FACT, WE HAVE BEEN USED TO BEING ABLE TO DRIVE WHEREVER WE WANTED OR NEEDED TO GO, JUST ABOUT AS FAST AS ANYBODY WOULD REASONABLY DESIRE. WE TRAVELLED 65 OR 75 MILES AN HOUR, AND NONE OF US EVER GAVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT.

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THE NATION SLOWS DOWN TO CONSERVE

BUT, WHEN THE ENERGY CRISIS FORCED US TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THE USE OF OUR FUEL RESOURCES, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE MILLIONS OF THEM WHO REGULARLY DRIVE OUR HIGHWAYS, TO SLOW DOWN TO 55 MILES AN HOUR.

NO COMPLAINTS. NO GRUMBLING. AMERICANS RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS BY, ALMOST OVERNIGHT, CHANGING THE CAR DRIVING HABITS OF AN ENTIRE NATION WHICH PRACTICALLY LIVES BY THE AUTOMOBILE.

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IT IS A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT, FOR THAT SINGLE, SIMPLE EXAMPLE
DEMONSTRATES THE FLEXIBILITY, THE ADAPTABILITY AND THE FAR-SIGHTEDNESS
OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

BUT WON'T BE KEPT IN THE DARK

WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE IS A REASON FOR SACRIFICE,
THEY ACCEPT IT WILLINGLY. IF THEY ARE UNCONVINCED AND HAVE REASON TO
DOUBT THAT THE SACRIFICE THEY ARE ASKED TO MAKE IS REALLY NECESSARY,
THAT ITS RESULT WOULD BE TRULY PRODUCTIVE, THEN THEY ARE NOT
SURPRISINGLY, INCLINED TO RAISE SOME QUESTIONS.

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I CAN SPEAK FIRST HAND ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE WHEN I WAS LAST
HERE IN RUSSELL, DURING JANUARY, THOSE VERY QUESTIONS WERE RAISED
ABOUT ONE SO-CALLED ENERGY SAVER, WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.
AND NOT JUST IN RUSSELL, BUT ALL ACROSS THE STATE, IN PRACTICALLY ALL
OF THE CITIES AND TOWNS I VISITED, THESE SAME QUESTIONS WERE RAISED.

WINTER DST QUESTIONED

NO ONE WHO RAISED THE QUESTION WITH ME QUARRELLED WITH THE
NEED TO CONSERVE ENERGY. NO ONE SEEMED TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO TRYING ANY
PROGRAM OR ANY POLICY THAT PROMISED SOME LEGITIMATE HOPE OF RELIEF AND
REAL SAVINGS.

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BUT MANY RAISED THE VERY VALID QUESTION WITH ME AS TO HOW MUCH ENERGY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES EXPECTED TO SAVE BY SENDING FIFTY MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL IN FULL NIGHT-TIME DARKNESS.

NO WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

AND UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE CONGRESS ITSELF COULDN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION. THEY PASSED THE LAW AND AT THE SAME TIME ORDERED A STUDY SO THAT AT THE END OF WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TWO YEAR EXPERIMENT, WE CAN KNOW IF IT ACTUALLY SAVED US ANY ENERGY.

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THE LAW, IN THE FIRST PLACE, DIDN'T HAVE MY SUPPORT. MANY PEOPLE HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN KANSAS WHO OPPOSED IT, SAW INSTINCTIVELY WHAT THE CONGRESS FAILED TO SEE -- THAT USING LESS POWER AT NIGHT IF YOU USE MORE IN THE MORNING -- IS NO WAY TO SAVE ENERGY.

SO AFTER TALKING TO PEOPLE ALL OVER THE STATE, I INTRODUCED A BILL TO REPEAL WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.

AND THE BILL GOT SOME ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FROM OTHER SENATORS, OF BOTH PARTIES, SOME OF WHOM HAD VOTED FOR THE ORIGINAL BILL TO ESTABLISH YEAR-ROUND DAYLIGHT SAVING.

11.

REPEAL CHANCE GOOD

THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR REPEAL OF THIS UNNECESSARY--IF NOT FRIVOLOUS--LAW. IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE TO HAVE AN EFFECT THIS YEAR. THE ALMANAC IS TAKING CARE OF THAT AND BY THE TIME A REPEAL COULD BE PASSED, THE LENGTHENING DAYS WILL HAVE ELIMINATED THE EARLY MORNING DARKNESS. BUT WE CAN, AND I AM HOPEFUL WE WILL, AVOID THE PROBLEM NEXT YEAR BY ACTING SOON IN THE CONGRESS.

12.

ROOTS IN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RESPOND TO MEANINGFUL CHALLENGES. THEY WILL OPPOSE ARBITRARY DECISIONS THAT ASK FOR UNNECESSARY SACRIFICE WHICH, AT BEST, CAN PROMISE TO YIELD ONLY THE MOST UNCERTAIN OF RESULTS. THAT IS NOTHING BUT AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR TRADITIONAL GOOD SENSE.

AS LONG AS THIS IS SO, AS IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THEN NO MATTER WHAT CRISIS MAY CONFRONT US, THE FUTURE LOOKS SECURE.

WE TRACE OUR POLITICAL ROOTS TO A REVOLUTION IN THE 18th CENTURY. THE NOTABLE FEATURES OF THAT REVOLUTION, TO MY WAY OF THINKING, ARE TWO:

13.

FIRST, IT WAS A RELUCTANT REVOLUTION LED AND FOUGHT AND SUPPORTED BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THE GRAVITY OF THEIR BREAK WITH THE ESTABLISHED ORDER AND WHO MADE THAT BREAK ONLY AFTER MUCH SOUL SEARCHING AND WHEN THEY WERE CONVINCED THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.

SECOND, THIS AMERICAN REVOLUTION HAS BEEN A CONTINUING REVOLUTION, ONE THAT WE PURSUE STILL TODAY. AND THE PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION OF THAT REVOLUTION IN THE 18th CENTURY AND IN THE PRESENT, WAS A MODEST ONE: "TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION".

14.

MODEST GOAL

THERE WERE NO ILLUSIONS IN THE COLONIES, OF THE KIND THAT DOOMED OTHER REVOLUTIONS OF THE PERIOD TO FAILURE. THE COLONISTS' GOAL WAS NOT PERFECTION, AS IN OTHER REVOLTS, BUT IMPROVEMENT. THEY DIDN'T TRY TO ACHIEVE THE UNIVERSAL GUARANTEE OF HAPPINESS FOR ALL. THEY SOUGHT TO SECURE, AS A BASIC RIGHT, ONLY THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

AND THEY ESTABLISHED FREEDOM AS THE PRIMARY RIGHT OF ALL AND LEFT TO FREE MEN THE TASK OF WORKING OUT IN THEIR OWN WAY THEIR PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS AND THEIR PATH TO FULFILLMENT.

15.

TO KEEP SYSTEM VITAL

THE MECHANISM BY WHICH WE HAVE INSTITUTIONALIZED OUR AMERICAN REVOLUTION--WHAT WE HAVE COME TO CALL THE "SYSTEM"--HAS BEEN CALLED SOMEWHAT INTO DOUBT IN RECENT YEARS.

SOME SAY IT HAS LOST ITS ABILITY TO HOLD THE CONFIDENCE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE. SOME SAY IT HAS LOST ITS VITALITY AND NEEDS TO BE REPLACED.

BUT I SAY IT MAY HAVE ITS SHORTCOMINGS, AND ITS FLAWS, BUT IT NEEDS LITTLE BUT THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF ALL OF US AND THE CONTINUED COMMITMENT OF ITS CITIZENS. WITH THAT, WE CAN TOGETHER KEEP WORKING TOWARDS THE FORMATION OF THAT MORE PERFECT UNION--A UNION STRENGTHENED BY OUR FREEDOM AND CEMENTED BY OUR COMMON PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OTHERS.

16.

AND IN THAT PHRASE, "TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION", WE CAN FIND THE CRITERIA BY WHICH WE OUGHT TO JUDGE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SYSTEM. IF WE DEMAND FROM IT SOLUTIONS TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS, AND DEMAND THEM OVERNIGHT, AND WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS, THEN THE SYSTEM WILL ALWAYS BE JUDGED INADEQUATE.

BUT IF INSTEAD WE LOOK UPON OUR SYSTEM AS A PROCESS BY WHICH WE CAN MOVE CLOSER TOWARD OUR GOALS, WITHOUT DEMANDING PERFECTION OR UTOPIA, THEN BY THAT CRITERIA IT MUST BE JUDGED A SUCCESS. IF WE DON'T EXPECT FROM IT THE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN WE HAVE TO RATE IT A SUCCESS.

AND WE OWE IT OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION.

17.

JOIN IN THANKS

SCOUTING REMAINS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS OF DEVELOPING AN APPRECIATION OF OUR SYSTEM AND OF DEVELOPING A RESPONSIBLE COMMITMENT TO IT. I CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU WHO ARE SCOUTS. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE IN SCOUTING AND I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN JOINING WITH YOU TONIGHT IN THANKING THE MANY MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE WORK HAS BUILT THIS WHEATLAND SCOUTING DISTRICT OF THE CORONADA AREA COUNCIL, AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HAVE A SCOUTING PROGRAM IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE.